

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

Husband and Wife Relationships

August 9, 2015

Review

- ▣ Genesis 1:27-28 establishes three relationships:
 - “In the image of God” – This phrase has many implications, one of which is man’s relationship to God.
 - “Male and female...God blessed them” – Man and woman have a God-given relationship.
 - “Be fruitful and multiply” – Married couples will bring forth children.

Review – Marriage

- ▣ Ephesians 5:22-33, Malachi 2:14 – Marriage that is a loving commitment of a man to a woman (and vice versa) that finds its highest expression in the imitation of Christ.
- ▣ Genesis 2:18 – Husband and wife complement each other. That is to say that the gender roles God made in creation (Genesis 1:27) give meaning to marriage roles.
- ▣ Genesis 2:24 – Marriage constitutes the beginning of a new household.

Purposes of Marriage

1. To glorify God by further reflecting His image (Genesis 1:27)
2. To exemplify Christ's sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:25)
3. To demonstrate the submission that the Lord deserves (Ephesians 5:22)
4. To support each other in their complementary dependence (Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:11-12)
5. To take up each other's concerns (Genesis 2:24)
6. To delight each other with their companionship (Proverbs 5:19; 1 Corinthians 7:3-4)
7. To produce children (Genesis 1:28)
8. To rule over the earth (Genesis 1:28)

Upward

1. Reflecting God's image
2. Picturing Christ's love
3. Demonstrating submission

- ▣ There is eternal love among the Members of the Trinity (John 17:24, cf. 15:26), thus Christians (esp. Christian couples) love the Lord and one another (1 John 5:1).
- ▣ Christ gave up His rights in order to serve believers. Likewise, believers can humble themselves to serve one another (Philippians 2:1-8).
- ▣ The church submits to Christ as Lord (Colossians 1:18) and believers – especially wives – submit within marriage (Ephesians 5:21-22).

Inward

1. Support each other
2. Take up each other's concerns
3. Delight each other

- ▣ Man and woman have built-in dependency in life. They have been made to complement each other.
- ▣ Being one flesh means is not primarily sexual. It means an intimate association whereby one party takes up the concerns, associations and obligations of the other.
- ▣ Man and woman should give physical and relational satisfaction in marriage, especially the marriage bed.

Forward

1. Produce children
2. Rule over the earth

- ▣ The marriage bed is meant to produce children.
- ▣ God expects not merely procreation, but the development of mature, capable servants of God (Psalm 127:4-5).
- ▣ The flourishing of families continues the human race and ensures care for the earth.

Must We Be Fruitful and Multiply?

- ▣ The full verse is Genesis 1:28 —
God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- ▣ Exegetical Notes:
 - The words are spoken to Adam and Eve on behalf of the whole race. They could not singularly fill the earth.
 - The words are categorized as a blessing. While there may be obedience implications, it is a blessing similar to the one given earlier in creation (v. 22).
- ▣ Conclusion:
 - Married couples should meaningfully allow for procreation as a vital part of marriage.
 - Married couples are not required by this verse to maximize their number of children.

Errant Views of Marriage

- ▣ It's for my happiness
 - Yes, but that's not the point. There is satisfaction to be found in marriage (Proverbs 5:18-19), but the point is God, not one's spouse (Ephesians 5:32).
- ▣ It gets rid of loneliness
 - No. Providing companionship is not the same as getting rid of loneliness. Freedom from loneliness is found in salvation, by which Christ took our lonely rejection (Matthew 27:46) and we enter into heavenly fellowship (John 17:20-23).
- ▣ It's for upward mobility
 - Finding an excellent wife is better than abundant riches (Proverbs 31:10).
- ▣ It's to legitimize sex/children
 - Yes, but that's not the point. Who would want to marry because they lack self-control (1 Corinthians 7:9)? Marriage is giving oneself to another (e.g. v. 4). By one's commitment, one loses much independent control.

Errant Views of Marriage

- ▣ It's merely a contract
 - This would seem to authorize gay marriage, plural marriage, open marriage and easy divorce.
 - This is proven false by the fact that God initiated the first marriage, thus defining it (Genesis 2:18, 21-24).
 - Marriage is covenantal (Malachi 2:14), but it is defined by God, not by the human parties.
 - This is demonstrated by the fact that marriage itself, the God-given institution, it to be honored by all (Hebrews 13:4).

Your Questions

