

## **God's Heart For Marriage**

**Genesis 2:7-25**

**May 10th 2020**

### **Introduction**

Happy Mother's Day!

I think it's interesting that the Bible begins and ends with a wedding! The first wedding takes place in a perfect paradise. The Groom is Adam and the Bride is Eve. The second wedding takes place in the book of Revelation chapter 19:6-10. It's called the marriage of the lamb. The celebration takes place in Heaven and the wedding announcement declares that Jesus Christ, the second Adam is both groom and Lamb. It calls for honoring the Lamb and is called the marriage of the Lamb. The bride is represented as the New Testament Church (see John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Ephesians 5:22). The wife is symbolic of the glorified Church and she is joined to Christ her Head in both the royal administration and the dignity of Christ's forever Kingdom. The symbol of marriage points to a final consummation of the pure and perfect Bride (the Saints) and the pure and perfect Groom (Jesus Christ).

In both weddings we are given a glimpse of God's heart for marriage! In the Old Testament God gives this testimony concerning David; "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (see 1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Paul quotes the Prophet Samuel; "The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you". In Samuel and Acts we discover that God has a heart (not a physical beating heart); and the man who pursues God's heart must pursue God's will. And what is God's heart for marriage? Several things come to mind; permanence and patience and pain. In short marriage is a committed (covenant) partnership between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:1-25). Marriage is a gift from God, designed by God and intended by God to be a source of ever increasing openness, mutual support and comfort. God's goal for marriage has always included monogamy, unity and transparency.

Helen Rowland said, "Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handspings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks easy till you try it."

Socrates said, "My advice to you is to get married: if you find a good wife you'll be happy; if not you'll become a philosopher." Agatha Christie also looked on the bright side; she said "An archeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her." By the way—Agatha married an archeologist! I was shocked when I read Howard Hendricks; "Only six marriages in a hundred are truly fulfilling." I don't know his source or whether those statistics are true. Are you single? The statistics might prove more terrifying the Coronavirus. If you are married you might be asking the question; "Am I truly fulfilled in my marriage?" Whether married or single; do you share God's heart when it comes to the subject of marriage? Do you share God's heart when it comes to your role as husband or wife? Do you share God's heart when it comes to your personal relationship with Jesus Christ? This may

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seem like a lot of questions. But make no mistake; the **condition of your heart will determine the direction of your life and your ultimate destination.**

Let's look at God's heart concerning marriage. We will take a brief look at how God created and designed both man and woman. And how He designed them for Himself and each other.

### The Making Of Adam (vv. 7; 15-16)

*Genesis 2:7 (NKJV)* *7And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

We are are some of the design details? The first man was created and formed by God. The substance God used was soil, but it was God's breath that gave the man a soul. It becomes clear that these design features would allow the man to exist in this world and fellowship with the Creator.

*Genesis 2:15(NKJV)* *"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it.*

*Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)* *"And the Lord said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

The text is pregnant with much information. We must limit ourselves for the moment. Men are designed by God to work. Men are designed by God for companionship. The repeated testimony in the book of Genesis is that God's powerful actions in Creation are good (see 1:4;10,12,18,21, 25 and 31); *"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. . ."*(v.31). The Lord now makes it clear that something is not good *that man should be alone*" (v.18). Human beings are designed by God for fellowship and companionship. And not just any kind of companionship. The word translated *helper* means one who meets needs. Men are needy creatures.

The fundamental building blocks are found in dust (v.7) or clay or dirt. The word *aphar* (*Strongs #6083*) canoe translated clay, earth, mud, ashes, ground, mortar, powder even rubbish. Dust seems to be the constituent elements readily found here on planet earth. The five major minerals in the human body are calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, and magnesium. All of the remaining elements in a human body are called "trace elements". Clay is composed of fine grain minerals and has elastic properties in the presence of water. Clay stretches in the presence of water and hardens when dry or exposed to heat. We are God's workmanship and at least two Old Testament writers use the metaphor of clay to describe our relationship to God as Creator (see Isaiah 64:8 and Jeremiah 18:1-4).

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We are made of trillions of cells with a complex nucleus that contains DNA; chemical coded information and instructions, a blueprint for all our physiological characteristics. We are 65% water (more or less depending on your gym membership).

The earth's crust is largely composed of oxygen and silicone. Minerals that bond these two elements are called silicates. We are quite literally dirt. But the text does not stop there (v.7). The Lord God breathed into the man the breath of life. The term breath and spirit are used interchangeably in the book of Genesis. God's breath is His life-giving Spirit. God exhales into the body formed on the earth. We are both earthly and divine in our origin according to the Bible's revelation. Both man's natural origin and divine origin cannot **be explained through exclusive material processes**. Dr. A.E. Wilder-Smith wrote; "The necessary information to build man does not reside in the few elements it takes to compose him." Be careful when you say "I'm only human." It may mean more than you can possibly imagine.

### The Making Of Eve (vv.19-22)

*Genesis 2:19–22 (NKJV) 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.*

*20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

*21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.*

*22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

A quick note; 'out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast (**pluperfect tense**—that is before God made man; v.19). In verses 19-22 we see evidence of intelligence, language, speech. Adam names the animals so that he can in fact talk about them. This should give you ladies hope. Why did God cause a deep sleep to fall on Adam (v.21)? Some scholars believe it is God's compassion. Others believe it was because God did not welcome input from Adam. **The first marriage was an arranged marriage. And so is the last marriage in the book of Revelation.**

The Lord's creative work does not end with Adam. Man's world is incomplete. The Lord fashions a woman (and later fashion will form the woman). **The Lord could have formed the woman apart from the man using the same substance and same breath. But the Lord chooses to use live tissue—the revelation given in the Bible is that woman is made from the man's flesh and bone (DNA?). What are we to make of this revelation?** The text is interesting; ". . .the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He **made** (emphasis mine) into a woman." The word translates from a Hebrew word which means to fashion or fabricate or

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build—much like one would do in a careful building project or the fabrication of the Temple. “The fact that Eve was made from Adam shows the unity of the human race and the dignity of the woman” (*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines On The Old Testament p. 24*).

We are given hints of God's design for marriage in His design for people. There are obvious differences in the sexes. But in our day even the obvious is controversial. There are two genders. Male and female. It is in both the differences and similarities that we find God's goal for marriage. Each person reflects the image of God (*imago Dei*). But the image comes into sharpest focus when Men and Women are viewed together (not apart see Genesis 1:26-27).

What does the testimony of the Bible tell us? Do we see this pericope as a mythical construct to help explain what primitive man could not explain? The Bible claims to give us accurate information about our creation, origin and presence in this world.

In a very real sense the woman proceeds from the man. There is a mystical element. Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Many Bible teachers have noted the similarities between Adam's Bride and Christ's Bride.

Unlike Adam Jesus does not sleep when the Bride was taken from His side.

Many Bible teachers have noted the woman was not taken from Adam's head to dominate him, nor his feet to be trampled or trodden under foot; but from the side, the place under his arm, near his heart, to be protected and loved. I am reminded of a story where a man lost patience with his wife. Karen had a strange habit of locking her keys in the car. Her husband Steve would have to be called from work with the spare key to open the car (this was before the days of keyless entry). In frustration her husband made the unkind remark; “I just don't understand how someone so beautiful can be so stupid.” Karen looked at the ground for a moment and softly said, “I think God made me beautiful so you would like me. I think God made me stupid so I would like you.”

### The Meaning Of Marriage (vv.23-25)

***Genesis 2:23–25 (NKJV) 23And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”***

*24Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

*25And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

The man names the woman (v.23). He calls her “ishshah” from the man. In both name and nature the man and the woman belong to each other.

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The passage is a gold mine of information. The first great discovery is that marriage is God's idea. Marriage is not simply a social contract or man's first institution. It is not a man made or cultural arrangement. At least not at first. Marriage was and is God's institution. The meaning of marriage is found in its origin and purpose. Marriage was designed by God. Marriage is a gift from God. The Lord created Adam in part for Eve and Eve for Adam. In marriage three things take place:

1. The man leaves his mother and father in a public act—and promises himself to his wife.
2. The man and the woman are joined together and assume responsibility for one another as well as love one another.
3. The two become one flesh in the intimacy and commitment of sexual union; an activity **reserved exclusively for the marriage.**

A biblical marriage—a strong marriage—a healthy marriage—will include all three elements. Leaving and cleaving; responsibility and love; intimacy and commitment.

### Monogamy

God's heart for marriage includes monogamy. How do we know? The Lord Jesus affirms this in Matthew 19:3-6 in his answer to the religious leaders questions about marriage and divorce. "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female (From Genesis 1:27); and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to the wife, and the two shall become one flesh' (Genesis 2:24); so they are no longer two but one flesh. *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*" The Lord condemns easy divorce for trivial reasons (see Wayne Grudem Christian Ethics pp.804-805). The Mishnah records that in the school of Shammai a man may not divorce his wife unless he has found unchastity in her. . .the school of Hillel says he may divorce even if she has spoiled some dish for him. . .Rabbi Akiba says he may divorce her even if he found another fairer than she". Wayne Grudem says rather than enter the debate Jesus affirms God's original plan for marriage and that it remains His ideal for all marriages (p.805). The prophet Malachi saw marriage as a covenant and God will hold those accountable who break the covenant. We must always ask—is it possible for marriage to be restored and preserved?

### Unity

God's heart for marriage includes unity. One flesh is a radical expression of unity. This kind of unity requires three essential elements: trust, respect and affection.

You might think those elements are contrived or arbitrary. I don't think so. We define problems in terms of goals. What is the goal of marriage? It is unity. Leaving and cleaving. The two

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become one. But it is not unity—disconnected from God. **The vast majority of problems in marriage can be seen in the erosion or absence of trust, respect and affection.**

What are some of the trust words we use? Confidence, reliance, dependence, faith. Trust is the word we use for intimate knowledge or in expressing deep affection. Affection incorporates feelings, emotions, passions, sentiment.

## **Transparency**

*v.25 "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."*

The Garden of Eden is their honeymoon suite. A perfect environment. Their's is a perfect partnership. Their's is a sustained relationship absent shame.

What does transparency mean?

## **Conclusion**

What is God's heart for marriage? It incorporates the revelation of all that God has said on the subject. What is God's will for marriage?