



God's Design for Marriage

Lesson 2: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE: MARRIAGE AND CREATION

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

Introduction

Genesis 1:26-28

- Image-bearers (1:27)
- Dominion (1:28)
- Procreation (1:28)

Genesis 2:15-18

- Work and keep the garden (2:15)
- Companionship (2:18)
- Complementarity (2:18)
- Suitable Helper (2:18)

Implications for marriage

1. Men are given the authority to lead in marriage
2. Women are not prohibited in working outside the home
3. As helpmate, the woman chooses to fall under the man's leadership
4. Leadership is servant leadership
5. Marriage has structure
6. The marriage structure affects every aspect of marriage
7. Structure is God's design for marriage

Genesis 2:21-25

- “Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (2:23)
- Leave and hold fast (Cleave) (2:24)
- One Flesh (2:24)

Implications for marriage

1. The marriage is the greatest priority for a married person
2. Make sure you are letting go
3. Re-orientate your priorities to make spouse primary
4. Marriage is common grace and not just for Christians
5. Marriage is between one man and one woman
6. Marriage is a permanent commitment
7. God is at the centre of your marriage

Conclusion

Response to lesson

1. Take time to study the passage in order to grasp a firmer understanding of what God did in creation.
2. What is your “garden” (area of responsibility) in which you must exert dominion? How are you doing in helping it to flourish and grow? Are you being a good steward of the small plot of land God has given you charge over?
3. If you are married and still struggling with “leaving and cleaving,” talk to someone about it. Maybe you are not prioritizing your spouse over other things? Find a friend or a pastor who can help think through the problem.
4. Husbands: Take some time this week to encourage your wife about how she is a wonderful helpmate. Write a note; tell her in person. That type of regular encouragement can go a long way in the marriage. Help her to understand how she is especially suited to be a complement to you.
5. Wives: What parts of being a helpmate do you dislike? Start praying to God that he will help you heart attitudes towards these things.
6. Are there things that are getting in the way of you and your spouse becoming “one flesh?” What stops you from having unity in your marriage? What can you do to get rid of these obstacles to unity?