



God's Design for Marriage

Lesson 3: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE: MARRIAGE AND THE FALL

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

Genesis 3:8

Review

- Both men and women are made as image-bearers, which means they have equal dignity and value in God’s eyes.
- Marriage has a God-designed structure built into it. Men are called to lead, and women called to come alongside of their husband to be his partner.
- God has created marriage with certain ideal parameters.
- God is at the center of our marriages

Introduction

Sin's Entry (Gen 2:25; 3:1-5)

- At first, no shame

- The serpent contradicts God and persuades Adam and Eve

Lessons Learnt

1. Competing Voices that Threaten Our Marriages

2. Our Quest to be Like God (Reflection vs. Rebellion)

Sin's Corruption: Vertical and Horizontal (Gen 3:8-15)

- Adam and Eve hide from God

- Adam blames Eve; Eve blames the serpent

Lessons Learnt

1. Sin Corrupts Our Relationship with God (Vertical)

2. Sin Corrupts Our Relationship with Our Spouse (Horizontal)

Sin's Curses (Gen 3:16-19)

- Desire and Rule

- Work is now painful and hard

Lessons Learnt

1. Sin Corrupts the Good Marital Order God Established

2. Spouses are Sinful, so they will Fail

God's Merciful Plan: The Beginning of the Gospel

- God denies Adam and Eve access to the Tree of Life

- God expels Adam and Eve from the garden

Lesson Learnt

1. God immediately gives mercy and delays mercy

Conclusion

Response to lesson

1. What are the competing voices that are ruining your marriage? Either talk with your spouse or write out a list. What does the Word of God say in contrast to these voices?
2. What lies do you tell yourself that distract you from God and hurt your marital relationship?
3. In what ways do you act like God in your marriage? Confess this to both God and your spouse.
4. What marital sins have hurt your relationship with God?
5. What sins plague your marriage?
6. Do you see the dynamic described in Genesis 3:16 in your marriage? If so, think about how to change/break that dynamic.
7. Take some time with your spouse to reflect on how God has been merciful to you both in response to your sin (both individual sin and sin that effects the marriage).