



# The Biblical Priorities of Life

"We are frail, we are fearfully and wonderfully made  
Forged in the fires of human passion  
Choking on the fumes of selfish rage  
And with these our hells and our heavens  
So few inches apart  
We must be awfully small  
And not as strong as we think we are"  
—Rich Mullins, "We Are Not as Strong as We Think We Are"

## Part 3 — "The Comforts and Conflicts of Marriage" — 8/22/21

### Introduction

- As relational beings who bear God's image, we have personal relationships and responsibilities that have been entrusted to us in order that they might be cultivated for God's glory. Because we are sinners who live in a fallen world, we need God's Word to give to us both a vision for this work of cultivation and a framework by which to rightly order these relationships and responsibilities. Through the person and work of the Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God. It is our relationship to Him that is therefore the primary relationship in life which impacts all others and by which they are all rightly prioritized.

**Key Point:** God has purposed that the primary human relationship for most people will be found in the institution of \_\_\_\_\_ where many of the deepest comforts and conflicts of life will be experienced.

### The Primary Human Relationship of Life: *Marriage Partner*

#### The Comforts & Blessings of Marriage

Gen. 2:18, 21-25—<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."... <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. 2:18a—Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone..."

⇒ Companionship is \_\_\_\_\_ intimacy.

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**Key Point:** True companionship requires the work of cultivating the relationship through effective \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. 2:18b— "...I will make him a helper fit for him."

"helper"— עֲזָרָה (ay'-zer)— The term is not one of lesser value, but one of function. It is paired with the word "fit" in order to convey the idea that she "corresponds to" or "completes" what is intended by God for mankind.

⇒ The man and woman correspond to one another in order that they might carry out "The Cultural Mandate."

Gen. 1:28a—And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion..."

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Key Point:** True teamwork in marriage means recognizing both our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ callings as husbands and wives.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. 2:24-25—<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

⇒ Sexual union is intended for the purpose of physical \_\_\_\_\_.

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"not ashamed"— בֹּוֹשָׁם (büš)— Not ashamed, embarrassed, or disappointed.

**Key Point:** Sexual union is intended as the physical act that marks the \_\_\_\_\_ and lifelong commitment of the marriage relationship.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Gen. 2:24-25—<sup>24</sup> *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

“one”—אֶחָד (*echad*)—One (number) or oneness. Used of God in the *Shema* of Deut. 6:4 (“...*the LORD your God, the LORD is one*...”)

⇒ Spiritual unity involves agreement about what it means \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

⇒ Spiritual unity involves agreement about what it means to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord together.

**Key Point:** Spiritual unity involves the shared recognition of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ over and His \_\_\_\_\_ for every aspect of married life.

## The Conflicts and Challenges of Marriage

Gen. 3:16-19—<sup>16</sup> *To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”*

<sup>17</sup> *And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

- Men and women feel the curse in particular ways and therefore have certain distinct needs within a marriage.

### 1. Women feel the curse primarily in the need for \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ The woman is called to fulfill “The Cultural Mandate” in ways unique to her \_\_\_\_\_. She will therefore feel the realities of the Fall most acutely in the birthing and rearing of children and in her domestic responsibilities.

⇒ Her husband called by God then to “rule” over in order to love and serve her. “Rule” involves the following:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Warning: In her sin, a wife will tend to \_\_\_\_\_ the rule of her husband and to \_\_\_\_\_ her children and her other responsibilities over her relationship with him.

### 2. Men feel the curse primarily in the need for \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ The man is called to fulfill “The Cultural Mandate” in ways unique to his \_\_\_\_\_. He will therefore feel the realities of the Fall most acutely in the leading of his family and in his work in the world.

⇒ His wife is called by God, then, to be his “helper” in order to love and serve him. Being a “helper” involves the following:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Warning: In his sin, a husband will tend to abdicate his responsibilities towards his family and to wrongly prioritize his \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ over his relationship with his wife.

**Key Point:** Marriage is intended by God to be a relationship of mutual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ towards one another for God’s glory and our joy!

## Concluding Thoughts

- The bad news is that we have an \_\_\_\_\_ who hates God and us and who wants to destroy our marriages.  
“Did God actually say...?” “You will not surely die”

- The good news is that we have a great \_\_\_\_\_ who has overcome our enemy!

Gen. 3:15—“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Rev. 5:5a—And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered...”