



Introduction

Christian men and women have been entrusted with two great commissions. The first, given by God in Gen. 1:27-28, involves being fruitful, multiplying on the earth and exercising dominion. The second, given by the Lord Jesus in Matt. 28:18-20, involves multiplying worshipers of God through the preaching of the gospel and discipling of those who come to believe. Marriage is central to the carrying out of each of these commissions and it is therefore intended by God both for His glory and our good.

Main Point: Through Christian marriage, God intends to picture both the _____ that He has for His people and the reconciling power of the _____.

What Does Marriage Picture?

The Original Image of Marriage—Gen. 2:20b-25

- **The original creation of the first man and woman was with the intent of them being brought _____ in marriage.**

Observations

1. The man was unable to carry out the Lord’s purposes in that state because there was no _____ fit for him.
“helper” _____ “fit”

2. That the Lord _____ the woman from the rib taken from the man’s side is significant:

“God chose to make Eve from the rib of man, He did not take her from Adam’s head that she should rule over him...[or] from his foot that he should trample over her; but from the rib that she might protect his heart.” - *Hebrew Adage*

3. That the Lord _____ the woman to the man has important implications:

4. The man’s words indicate that he recognized that they had been made as a _____ to one another.

“Their difference is complementary, but asymmetrical; this is not a mirror image or a polar opposite. She resembles him in their shared humanity— “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”—but differs in the feminine form of her humanity. Genesis affirms the balance of sameness and difference between the sexes.” — Abigail Favale, *The Genesis of Gender*

5. The concluding statements explain God’s original _____ for marriage:

Key Point: God’s love for the man and woman was intended to be _____ in how they were to express love and to give themselves fully to one another.

The Shattered Image of Marriage—Gen. 3:1-13

- **The deceitfulness of the serpent and the willing sin of our first parents introduced _____ into the harmonious relationships that existed in the garden.**

Observations

1. The introduction of the figures in this account anticipates the _____ of what God has rightly ordered.

Genesis 2: God → _____ → _____ → Creatures

Genesis 3: Creature → _____ → _____ → God

2. The serpent’s attack was directed at the woman’s confidence in God’s _____ and her _____ in relation to Him.

3. The account implies their _____ to fulfill the roles God intended for them in marriage:

* Adam failed in his role as protector →

* Eve failed in her role as helper →

4. Their _____ following their sin indicated that the prior harmony of their relationships had been undone.

5. The Lord promised to ultimately rescue them but also that they would be prone to _____ over His good design for them in marriage.

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.*

Gen. 3:16b—*Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.*

Key Point: The promise of the coming Rescuer implied the continued _____ of marriage but also the need for deliverance from their enemies of Satan, sin, and death.

The Restored Image of Marriage—Eph. 5:22-33

- **How a wife _____ and _____ to her husband is intended to picture the relationship between the Church and Christ.**

Exhortation: “Wives, submit to your own husbands”

How? “...as to the Lord.”

- * A person’s relationship to Christ is based on _____.
- * A person should arrange their lives under His _____.

Why? “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church and is himself its Savior.”

- ⇒ Messiah has taken _____ for the church.
- ⇒ Messiah has a position of _____ over the church.

- **How a husband _____ and _____ for his wife is intended to picture the relationship between Christ and the Church.**

Exhortation: “Husbands, love your wives...”

How? “...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”

- ⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was _____-_____.
- ⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was shown in His ministering of the _____ to her.
- ⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was for the purpose of her _____ for God’s glory.

Why? “...husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

- * Husbands should not _____ their wives.
- * Husbands should: (1) _____ (2) _____

- **Christian marriage is a mysterious analogy for the _____ that Christ has with the Church.**

Eph. 5:31-32—³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Key Point: Christian marriage is intended by God to picture the work of _____ that Christ has accomplished in restoring the original relationships broken at the fall.

(1) _____ & _____ reconciled! (2) _____ & _____ reconciled!

Concluding Thoughts

1. _____ hates marriage in general and Christian marriage in particular and so when we find aspects of marriage to be difficult, this should not be surprising.

1 Pet. 5:8—*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

2. **Our union with Christ is the _____ from which we draw all that we need to honor God and one another in our marriage.**

1 Pet. 5:9—*Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*



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Main Point: Through Christian marriage, God intends to picture both the love that He has for His people and the reconciling power of the gospel.

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- **How a wife views and responds to her husband is intended to picture the relationship between the Church and Christ.**

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How? “...as to the Lord.”

- * A person’s relationship to Christ is based on **trust**.
- * A person should arrange their lives under His **authority**.

Why? “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church and is himself its Savior.”

⇒ Messiah has taken **responsibility** for the church.

⇒ Messiah has a position of **headship** over the church.

- **How a husband loves and cares for his wife is intended to picture the relationship between Christ and the Church.**

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How? “...as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”

⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was **self-sacrificial**.

⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was shown in His ministering of the **Word** to her.

⇒ Messiah’s love for the church was for the purpose of her **flourishing** for God’s glory.

Why? “...husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

- * Husbands should not **disfavor** their wives.
- * Husbands should: (1) **Nourish** (2) **Cherish**

- **Christian marriage is a mysterious analogy for the union that Christ has with the Church.**

Eph. 5:31-32—³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Key Point: Christian marriage is intended by God to picture the work of **reconciliation** that Christ has accomplished in restoring the original relationships broken at the fall.

(1) God & Man reconciled!

(2) Man & Woman reconciled!

Concluding Thoughts

1. **Satan hates marriage in general and Christian marriage in particular and so when we find aspects of marriage to be difficult, this should not be surprising.**

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