

God's Design for the Family: Foundations

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Selected Scriptures

God made us NOT to OPERATE independently... but rather to live in COMMUNITY with other people. To do this HE CREATED the FAMILY.

The FAMILY was God's IDEA from the very beginning.

- Obviously in a FALLEN WORLD – you have death, divorce, single parents, but this is the PRIMARY DESIGN.

The ASSAULT on the FAMILY really began with No-Fault DIVORCE (1969). That two people could simply nullify their marriage vows without cause.

- There was a STEADY SLIDE until Obergefell was passed (2014) – which fundamentally redefined marriage in the public square.

This is IMPORTANT – because a NATION is only as STRONG as the FAMILIES that COMPRISE it.

The ONLY REMEDY is to do it RIGHT in the CHURCH. PREACHING of the GOSPEL.

4 PURPOSES for which GOD instituted MARRIAGE.

1) Companionship

Genesis 2:7 – [7] *then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

- Genesis 2:15 – [15] *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*
 - He was essentially to take dominion of the GARDEN and GUARD the GARDEN.
 - The GARDEN was a TEMPLE of SORTS... a PLACE where man encountered GOD.
 - And ADAM was its priests... he was to GUARD the ACCESS into the GARDEN.
 - ADAM is given these LEADERSHIP responsibilities before Eve is CREATED.
- Genesis 2:18 – [18] *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him."*
 - When God says that "it is not good that man should be alone... he means every facet of life.
 - Edith Schaeffer – (*What is a Family?*) God made Adam and Eve as two very different people who could become one unit. Male and female created He them — on purpose. God made woman to be physically beautiful in the eyes of man. God also made man to be beautiful in the eyes of the woman. Two kinds of beauty, complementing each other, fulfilling each other. God gave man and woman capacity for love and someone to love, capacity for gentleness and someone to whom to be gentle, capacity for communication and someone with whom to communicate, capacity for worshiping Him and having communication with Him — their God — and someone with whom to join for worship, capacity for learning and someone with whom to discuss all the new discoveries and understandings, capacity for physical oneness and someone with whom to be become one in a mysterious and very real way. God also gave man and woman the capacity to be a family and the marvel of being able to reproduce... Wonder of wonders!

- God says The MAN needs a HELPER... An Ezer.

There is a DISTINCTION here in their responsibilities.

- The MAN'S JOB is to WORK and KEEP the GARDEN.
- The WOMAN'S JOB is to HELP her HUSBAND.

This HELPS us understand the DIFFERENCE between MEN and WOMEN.

- This means that MEN are NATURALLY oriented towards the MISSION/WORK. Genesis 2:15. The Man is to WORK and KEEP.
 - The man is responsible for the provision of the FAMILY.
 - 1 Timothy 5:8 – [8] *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
 - Every MAN needs a MISSION.
- Whereas God's ideal for MOST women is to come alongside a MAN and be is HELP as his WIFE..

See Genesis 2:19, 20 – A Helper is NOT found for ADAM amongst the animals.

Genesis 2:24 – [24] *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

APPLICATION: One of the GREAT PROBLEMS in the CULTURE and it has seeped into the CHURCH. Is prolonged singleness. People are getting married later and later.

- We don't mean WIDOWS, whose husbands have died.
- We don't mean those who are single for the sake of the kingdom like Paul mentions.
- We don't mean those who desire to marry and have been praying for a wife or husband.
- We primarily mean YOUNG MEN and WOMEN who postpone marriage out of a sense of convenience.

2) Sanctification

God designed marriage as a buffer to not commit sexual sin.

Everywhere in SCRIPTURE, we are told that sexual immorality is a SIN AGAINST GOD.

1 Corinthians 6.

- 1 Corinthians 6:13 – [13] *The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 – [18] *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

And the BUFFER against SEXUAL IMMORALITY. This is the CONCLUSION Paul is getting at... And then 6. 1 Corinthians 7:9 – [9] *But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

Then the principle PAUL lays out: 1 Corinthians 7:1 – [1] *Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "it is good for a man not to have sexual relationship with a woman."*

- Basically some Corinthians had adopted the view that any sexual relations were bad and should be avoided...

- This was prevalent in the gnostic heresy at the time.
 - That any type of sexual relationship is less HOLY.
 - A TEACHING that the ROMAN COMMUNION carries forward to this day.
 - That Marriage is less HOLY.

Then Paul corrects this view in 1 Corinthians 7:2 – [2] *But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.*

- The TEXT says ... but because of immoralities (*porneia*)...[any type of sexual sin]
 - EACH man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.
 - Paul KNOWS and UNDERSTANDS that God made man and woman as physical beings with sexual desires.
 - And MARRIAGE is the ONLY BLESSED context for those desires to be expressed.

For that REASON PAUL says verse 3. [3] *The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.*

- The HUSBAND and the WIFE have a RESPONSIBILITY to ONE ANOTHER to ENSURE that the other is NOT tempted and falls into SIN.

Paul elaborates. 1 Corinthians 7:4 – [4] *For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

- In other words, Because the husband and wife are one flesh, neither should be deprived.

Verse 5 is an explanation of verse 4. 1 Corinthians 7:5 – [5] *Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

The APPLICATION:

- Hebrews 13:4 – [4] *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.*
- FAR Too many marriages are wrecked by the SINS of LUST. Or ADULTERY.
- Repentance and a renewed pursuit of purity are needed.

3) Godly Children

Marriage was also given by GOD to produce godly children.

The marriage preamble in The Book of Common Prayer 1559. “[Marriage was ordained for] the procreation of children, to be brought up in the feare and nurtoure of the Lorde, and praise of God.”

- God’s expectation of a CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE is that CHILDREN would be brought into the WORLD and then those children would be TRAINED to fear the LORD.
- Genesis 1:28 – [28] *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*
- Malachi 2:15 – [15] *Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*
- Psalm 127:3 – [3] *Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.*
- Psalm 127:4 – [4] *Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.*

- The SCRIPTURE says that CHILDREN are a GIFT from the LORD.

The EXPECTATION both in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is that CHRISTIAN MARRIAGES produce children who are then trained to fear God. We aren't to give them a GAMET of OPTIONS. I've heard that from parents.

- Deuteronomy 6:6 – [6] *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.*
[7] *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
- Proverbs 1:8 – [8] *Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching...*
- Ephesians 6:4 – [4] *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

If you cannot have CHILDREN physically...

- PRAY. Genesis 25:21 – [21] *And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.*
- Consider ADOPTION.

4) Christ and the Church

Marriage was ordained from the beginning to mirror Christ's glorious relationship with His bride the CHURCH.

- See Ephesians 5:22-33.
- Marriage all along pointed to the RELATIONSHIP of CHRIST with His Church.
 - When people see a godly MARRIAGE, they are supposed to see a HUSBAND who LOVES his WIFE and gives HIMSELF up for HIS WIFE.
 - And A WIFE who respects and submits to her own HUSBAND in the LORD.
 - This was God's DESIGN from the very BEGINNING.
- Our MARRIAGES are a glorious picture of the GOSPEL to a watching WORLD.