

“God’s Design For Marriage Pt. 1”  
Genesis 1-3  
9/10/23  
Message 1  
Series – God’s Design For Marriage

## **Introduction**

- Title Of The Message: “God’s Design For Marriage Pt. 1”

- **Funny Story**

- **A pastor was visiting the 4th grade Sunday School class**
  - He was talking about marriage - as part of the lesson
    - He asked the class...
      - "What does God say about marriage?"
    - Immediately, one boy replied,
      - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they..."
    - The little boy hit on Something!
  - In hindsight
    - This was probably true of most of us when we stood at the altar on our wedding day.
    - We really didn't know what we were getting ourselves into...
    - Most of us I am sure had some romantic idea of what marriage would be like BUT REALITY hit us
    - It did not take long before you realize that!!!

- **For Judy & I**

- We can remember going to premarital counseling
  - Thinking this will be okay BUT not sure we need all of it...
  - We both love Jesus and each other how hard can this be?
- Well - Our marriage has been great
  - But I was sure glad for the counseling
- Personally, the advice I was given – has impacted my life to this day
  - I still use in the marriage counseling
  - I will not do a wedding unless the couple has gone through pre-marital counseling

- **The Purpose for the Study**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Marriage TAKES WORK**

- Best definition of marriage I heard –
  - Two Sinners Living Under the same roof!
    - What could possibly go WRONG?!...
- Then you add
  - Different People
    - Male and Female... Think Differently
  - Different Expectations

- Male and Females have different expectations
- The Spiritual Warfare
  - Satan want to destroy what God has put together
- So – The Lords Wants to Encourage us with this series
  - To build on a great marriage
  - To encourage / challenge those who are struggling
  - To prepare those who may get married in the future
  - Understand this –
    - What if God made Marriage more for our HOLINESS – Than Happiness
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Encouragement for those who have been DIVORCED**
  - **Maybe you have been Divorced –**
    - I want you know there is hope
    - GOD’S GRACE is greater!!!
  - **As we go through the study, we will look at God’s Plan –**
    - This will help you as you GO FORWARD in Christ
    - It so Important not to make the same mistake again
    - We Learn from our mistakes
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Clear Up Confusion - The World is Confused about Marriage**
  - **Throughout History**
    - At the time of Christ

- A Jewish woman was not a person but a thing!!!
  - A woman had no legal rights whatever
  - A wife could be dismissed at will.
  - One interpretation of Deuteronomy 24:1, the chief divorce law in Israel. Some had interpreted it as anything that might displease the husband, even spoiling his dinner.
- Jewish rabbis had a particular prayer that they would pray virtually every day. It went like this:
  - *“Blessed art thou, O God, for not making me a Gentile, slave, or woman.”*
- IN Greek and Roman cultures.
  - *De-mos-thenes said, “We have Prostitutes for our pleasures, concubines for daily cohabitation, and wives for the purpose of having children legitimately and of having a faithful guardian for our household affairs.”*
- **Today**
  - It’s ALL about FEELINGS / EMOTIONS
    - As long as those Feeling and Emotion are there – then we can stay together
    - AS LONG AS YOU MEET MY NEEDS
  - Divorce is Common
    - There is No Real Commitment to marriage in our culture

- The divorce rate has been reported at 50% in the world
- Sadly, it is very close to the same in Christian marriages
  - Depending on what research you take anywhere from 35% to 45%
  - *George Barna said; "We rarely find substantial differences" between the moral behavior of Christians and non-Christians.*
  - *Barna Project Director Meg Flammang said: "We would love to be able to report that Christians are living very distinct lives and impacting the community, but ... in the area of divorce rates they continue to be the same."*
- We Need to understand how God Sees Marriage – How Important it is
- The world has attempted to redefine “marriage”
  - They say, “It can be anything...”
  - Male – Male
  - Female – Female
  - By the way they have NO right to redefine what God has made
- Jesus Gave us the Definition

**Matthew 19:4–6 (NKJV)**

**4** And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’  
**5** and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

**6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”**

- Christians have no right to attend guys weddings
  - How can we participate in and sin that will damn their souls to hell

- **Why is marriage important?!**

- **1<sup>st</sup> First institution God made (Gen. 18-24)**
  - Even before the He made the Church!
    - We are going to focus in on that this morning
- **2<sup>nd</sup> A Picture of Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:32)**

**Ephesians 5:32 (NKJV)**

**32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

- God is using Christian marriage for His glory and to be a light to the lost world
- **3<sup>rd</sup> As Marriage Goes – so Does the Culture**
  - ***Dr. Ed Wheat; “marriage the most valuable institution on earth! It is also the first and foundational institution which means that all other institutions are in one way or another built upon it. Each divorce is the death of a small civilization. It inflicts wounds that never heal. Survey after survey demonstrates that Americans are less inclined than they were a generation ago to value sexual fidelity, lifelong marriage, and parenthood as worthwhile personal goals.”***
  - In other words, as marriage and the family go, so goes the nation, world!

- **So This Morning we will Start our series on God’s Design For Marriage**

- ***I want you to get the Idea of Building a House***

- **This Morning**

- **The Blueprints – God’s Creation of Marriage (Genesis 1-3)**

- **Next Week**

- **The Foundation = Jesus (Matt 7:24-29)**
- **The Walls / Windows = Communication (Ephesians 4:25-32)**
- **The Roof / Covering = Self Sacrificing Love for Each other (1 Corinthians 13 / Galatians 5:22-23)**
- **The Power = Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)**

### **The Blueprints - God’s Creation of Marriage (Genesis 1-3)**

- ***First: Everything was GOOD (Genesis 1:26-31)***

- ***1<sup>st</sup> The Trinity v. 26***

- **1<sup>st</sup> Let US v. 26a**

***Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)***

***26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”***

- I believe refers to the Triune God, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Man In OUR Image v. 26b**

***Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)***

**26** Then God said, “**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- Again - Who is He talking about “Our” Image –
  - The Trinity
- Mankind is MADE in the IMAGE of GOD!
  - This MEANS
    - Man is different from every other created thing
      - Because He has a created in the IMAGE of God.
    - There is an unbridgeable gap between human life and animal life.
    - There is also an unbridgeable gap between human life and angelic life
      - Nowhere are we told the angels are made in the image of God.
    - Man was made to have fellowship with God
      - Body, Soul, & Spirit (Briefly Explain)
    - Man is the CROWNING GLORY of Creation
      - Note – This stand in direct contraction to evolution
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Man has DOMINION over this earth v. 26c

***Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)***

**26** Then God said, *“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

- Man is the STEWARD of this WORLD
- We are to manage it – Subdue it

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> Male and Female - Be fruitful and multiply vs. 27-30**

**Genesis 1:27–30 (NKJV)**

**27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**29** And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

**30** Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so.

▪ **Male & Female**

- Only 2 genders
- Everything else is LIE from the pit of hell

▪ **Be Fruitful and Multiply**

- Have kids
- Any philosophy or ideology that says not to have children is a Lie from the pit of Hell
- It blesses me to see young people marry and have children

○ **3<sup>rd</sup> It was VERY GOOD v. 31**

### **Genesis 1:31 (NKJV)**

**31** Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- What God has created was VERY GOOD
  - God says this after Day Of Creation
- **BUT** - As you know He is about to say Something is NOT Good!

### • **Second: It Is NOT Good For Man to Be Alone (Genesis 2:18-25)**

- **1<sup>st</sup> It is NOT v. 18a**

### **Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)**

**18** And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

- **For the first time - God saw something that was not good**
  - 
  - The **Aloneness** of man
    - Man was ALONE!
      - There was no one like him
  - As we will - God never intended for man to be alone!
- **The Purpose of Marriage is Revealed**
  - To solve the problem of ALONENESS / LONELINESS Issue
- **Difference between being Alone and Loneliness**
  - Being Along
    - Is simply the state of being by ourselves.

- Lots of folk can be Alone without being Lonely
- Some people like being alone!
- Loneliness
  - Is different
    - *Loneliness is a painful emotion in which we feel isolated and cut-off from significant relationships with others.*
    - Being lonely has little to do with the presence or absence of other people.
    - It's possible to feel lonely in the midst of a crowded room.
    - Illustration
      - Death of a Spouse
  - **Marriage – Solves the Oneness / Intimacy Problem**
    - God knew – It was NOT GOOD for man to be alone perspective
      - Adam's aloneness isn't good.
      - God has created him with a soul that will soon need the presence of a companion.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> A HELPER v. 18b

**Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)**

**18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**

- God's "blueprint" for create a Helper Comparable to him!

- Note Different versions of the Bible translate this idea
  - New Living - A companion... a helper suited to his needs
  - Septuagint Bible - A helper correspondent to himself
  - NIV, NASB - A helper suitable
  - KJV - A help meet for him

### ▪ **The Marriage Relationship**

- God created woman to be a perfectly suitable helper to the man.
- What this look like
  - God gave the plan and agenda to Adam
    - God gave Eve to Adam to help do that agenda
    - MEN have to lead
  - God's Order – (BEFORE THE FALL – SIN)
    - God gives to MAN
      - The responsibility (and the accountability) to be the leader in the home
      - God gives to the woman the responsibility and the accountability to help him.

• **Show Pic**

- Very Important that everyone is on board with God's PLAN

- **Third: God's Object Lesson vs. 19-20**

**Genesis 2:19–20 (NKJV)**

**19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

**20** So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Brought them to Adam to see what he would call them**

- God did this to show Adam that he had a need
- So as each different types animal came to him
- He would give them their name
- Mr. & Mrs. Lion, Mr. & Mrs. Pig, a male and female of each of the animals.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> But for Adam there was not found a helper**

- It was obvious to Adam that the animals came in pairs and he had no mate.
- Since God deliberately had Adam name the animals after seeing his need for a partner (Genesis 2:18), God used this to prepare Adam to receive the gift of woman.

- **Fourth: Creation Of Women vs. 21-23**

**Genesis 2:21–23 (NKJV)**

**21** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

**22** Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

**23** And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

○ **1<sup>st</sup> God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam**

▪ Joke: What Can I Get For A Rib?

- It's the dawn of creation, and Adam is walking around the Garden of Eden admiring the beauty
- But after a few hours, he begins to wish he could share it with someone
- The loneliness becomes hard to bear
- God then asks Adam what was wrong
- Adam replies that he doesn't have anyone to talk to,
- So God decides to give him a companion, a woman
  - God tells Adam that the woman will
  - Cook for him
  - Wash his clothes
  - Always agree with every decision
  - She won't ever nag him
  - She will always be the first to admit she is wrong when they disagree
- Adam asks God
  - What a woman like that will cost him
- God says,
  - "An arm and a leg."

- So Adam replies,
  - "What can I get for a rib?"
- **2<sup>nd</sup> The rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman**
  - God used Adam's own body to create Eve to forever remind him of their essential oneness.
  - A helper comparable
  - *The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.*
  - NOTE
    - We also know the Bride of Christ
      - Was BORN out of the SIDE of JESUS
- **3<sup>rd</sup> And He brought her to the man**
  - God brought Eve to Adam and created Eve out of Adam.
    - Again – Adam was first –
      - The source and the head.
      - She was created to be a helper perfectly suited to him.
      - Thus the subordinate relationship of wives to husbands is found before the curse, not only after it.
  - Note

- In Hebrew, the word for man is “Ish”
- Adam calls her “Isha”; the feminine form of “Ish.”
- He acknowledges
  - She is a part of him
  - They share the same constitution and nature.

### • **Fifth: Marriage vs. 24-25**

#### ***Genesis 2:24–25 (NKJV)***

**24** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

**25** *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Therefore a man Shall Leave his father and Mother v. 24a**

#### ***Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)***

**24** **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,** and they shall become one flesh.

- There is a leaving that takes place
  - No other relationship is on this level
  - This is the highest relationship – nothing even comes close
  - This passage is so crucial it's quoted by both Jesus and the Apostle Paul when they taught on marriage! (Mt 19:3-9; Eph 5:28-31)

#### ***Matthew 19:4–6 (NKJV)***

**4** *And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’*

**5** *and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?*

**6** *So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

***Ephesians 5:28–31 (NKJV)***

**28** *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

**29** *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

**30** *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*

**31** *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

- Joined to his wife
  - Connection
  - There is a leaving and cleaving that takes place
- Lesson
  - Critical
    - Since God defines the relationship as the highest, deepest personal relationships we can have
    - Then NO ONE else should be in it!
  - This means that things shared in this relationship stay in that relationship
    - TRUST is huge
  - SO this means guys
    - No complaining about the “Ball and Chain” to your buddies
  - So this means Gals
    - No Gossiping
    - No repeating the things he says to you in confidence

- **2<sup>nd</sup> They shall become one flesh v. 24b**

**Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)**

**24** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, **and they shall become one flesh.***

- **1<sup>st</sup> A Miracal in the Moment**

- At the Moment you make the Convent Vow to God and your spouse you become one flesh
  - This is a miracle of the moment
- While sexual union is certainly related to the idea of one flesh
  - It is only one part of what it means to be one flesh.
  - This biblical ideal of "oneness"
    - Might be better understood as intimacy where a husband and wife know each other

- **2<sup>nd</sup> The Process of your Lifetime**

- More on this in a minute
  - Actually, the rest of studies are all about growing in ONENESS

- **3<sup>rd</sup> They were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed v. 25**

**Genesis 2:25 (NKJV)**

**25** *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

- **The idea of “nakedness” is far more than mere nudity.**

- It has the sense of being totally open and exposed as a person before God and man.

- To be naked... and not ashamed means you have no sin, nothing to be rightly ashamed of, and nothing to hide.
- Completely transparent
- A SAFE PLACE – to share
- **My wife knows everything about me –**
  - Even the things I have forgotten!

• **Sixth: The Fall & Curse (Genesis 3:1-24)**

○ **1<sup>st</sup> Recap the FALL vs. 1-13**

▪ **Satan Temptation vs. 1-5**

**Genesis 3:1–5 (NKJV)**

**1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

**2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

**3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

**4** Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

**5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- Make brief comments
- Has God indeed said – same lie still being used today

▪ **The Fall & Blame Game vs. 6-13**

**Genesis 3:6–13 (NKJV)**

**6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

**7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

**8** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**9** Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

**10** So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

**11** And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

**12** Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

**13** And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Brief Comments

- **2<sup>nd</sup> The Curses vs. 14-24**

**Genesis 3:14–24 (NKJV)**

**14** So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

**15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

**16** To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

**17** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

**18** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

**19** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

**20** And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

**21** Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

*22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—*

*23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.*

*24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- **Critical to understand this curse in moving forward**

- Guys - now have to work very hard
  - I guess we just can't hang out at the coffee shop all day and play
- Gals – Your desire to rule over your husband affects you to this day

## **The Process of a Lifetime**

- **ONENESS = INTIMACY**

- **4 Areas - That we need to grow in the ONENESS**

- PLEASE Understand –

- Satan will do Everything Possible to Prevent this ONENESS from growing!

- **First: Family**

### **Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)**

*24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

### **Genesis 2:24 (KJV 1900)**

*24 Therefore shall a man **leave** his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Marital intimacy is Exclusive**

- **A Challenge to - LEAVE & CLEAVE**

- Man - Your role now as a husband is three-fold
  - A Challenged to lead her and the family that the Lord will bless you with! To lead them SPIRITUALLY / to be an example of Christ!
  - A Call to Love her / As Christ LOVED the church and gave Himself for it!
  - A Call to leave and cleave / forsaking all / your wife is to be second only to Jesus!
- Woman - Your new role as wife is three-fold as well.
  - You are to be his FRIEND, his very best friend a HELPER; one who supports her husband's LEADERSHIP and RESPECTS him in Christ, as Christ submitted to Father.
  - You are also to be a NURTURER to the children that God will bless you with!
  - A Call to leave and cleave / forsaking all / Your husband is to be second only to Jesus!

- **Examples – Challenges to ONENESS**

- Woman TOO attached to their mothers
- Men TOO attached to their buddies
- NEVER Ask – Parents and Friends for marriage advice

- **2<sup>nd</sup> The Challenge**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Parents**

- Some parents just won't let go

- They still want to be in charge
- For us who have married children – LEARN to let go
- They have to make their own way – as painful as it may be to watch – we must not meddle –
- BUT we CAN PRAY -
- Important to make a BREAK
  - Leaving mother and father means just that
  - Once you've married, there is no going home!
  - You have a NEW home and that is where you belong
  - The loyalty you once bore to your parents now properly belongs to your spouse, and to him or her alone
  - A man or woman needs to make sure that their parents do not interfere in their marriage
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Children - Ephesians 5:31-6:4**
  - The Marriage is the first priority
  - Like the O2 mask on a plane
    - Put your on first than you will be able to help others
  - Want to be GREAT Parents –
    - Be a great Husband and Wife First
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Friends**

- Friend YES – BUT NOT before Marriage
- Learn to be alone with each other
- CONCERN
  - I get concerned with young married people who are always HANGING out with friends every chance they get
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Hobbies / Activities**
  - If they pull you away from your spouse
    - DUMP them or learn to do them together

## • **Second: Conflicts**

- **1<sup>st</sup> The Problem - James 4:1**
  - Illustration – Joke
    - John & Mary had just spent a week on their honeymoon
    - It was the first day back at home when John took Mary by the hand and said,
      - "Now that we're married, dear, I hope you won't mind if I mention a few little defects that I've noticed about you."
    - Mary replied,
      - "Not at all John, it was those little defects that kept me from getting a better husband."
  - 2 Sinners under the same roof...
    - There are going to be challenges / conflict

- Why?!
  - We want our own way
  - To put it bluntly
    - We're all generally a bunch of selfish, self-centered, egotistical brats

**James 4:1 (NKJV)**

*1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?*

- **We Deal with this in pre-marital counseling**

- YES your going to have conflict
- Many young people just don't get it
- But we are in lov....
- It all changes the moment you live under the same roof

- **2<sup>nd</sup> The Solution – To Resolving Conflict**

- **1<sup>st</sup> DEATH to SELF (Rom. 12:1-2 / Ga. 2:20)**

**Philippians 2:1–11 (NKJV)**

- 1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,*
- 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*
- 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*
- 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*
- 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*
- 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*
- 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

**8** *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

**9** *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

**10** *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

**11** *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

▪ **2<sup>nd</sup> Have a PLAN**

- Every husband and wife need to have a plan
  - For how they're going to handle those times when communication does break down and selfishness gets in the way
- Conflict, left unresolved,
  - Will drive a wedge between a husband and wife and halt their progress in intimacy
  - So face the head on

▪ **3<sup>rd</sup> Your Conflict are NOT Unique**

- The enemy will lie to and tell you –
  - You are the ONLY person in the world that is going through this...
  - NO your not –
- In counseling –
  - Faces change the problems are the same

▪ **4<sup>th</sup> Understand your Differences**

- Man and Women

- We think different act Different
- Different Personality
  - I have notice through-out my ministry
    - That married couples seem to be attracted to the opposite personality
  - One is tidy and likes everything in its place –
    - The other, where it falls is good enough
  - One is very careful with the record keeping –
    - The other, what's a record?
  - One balances the checkbook as soon as the bank statement arrives –
    - The other thinks as long as there's checks in the book, there's money in the account
  - One thinks the toilet paper should only come off the roll a certain way
    - Lets just solve this issue RIGHT NOW
    - **Show PIC**
  - One likes to sleep in while the other is an early riser
  - One loves broccoli, One abhors it
- Spend TIME with EACH
  - Recognize the differences
  - Celebrate then don't divide over them

- BY the way after they have gone home to be with the Lord – you will miss that issue that drives you crazy right now

- **4<sup>th</sup> Commination is KEY**

- A Lot More on this next week
- Ephesians 4

***Ephesians 4:26–32 (NKJV)***

**26** *“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,  
27 nor give place to the devil.*

**28** *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

**29** *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

**30** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

**31** *Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*

**32** *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

- **Third: Money**

- **The Problem**

- Hardly anyone talks about it before hand
  - We don't make plans
  - Priorities and the Expectations in regards to money never get discussed
  - This CREATES a real challenge to intimacy

- **The Solution**

- Discover what God says about money

- And they follow His direction!
- Sit down and discuss –
  - With the idea that YOU are BOTH Stewards NOT OWNERS of the Money you have
  - DO a budget
  - Come to agreements
  - Follow through

## • **Fourth: Sex**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Sex – (In Marriage)**
  - God Created
    - Is Very beautiful
    - An Expression of Love & Devotion
    - To be Enjoyed by Husband and Wife
  - Simple instructions God gives
    - Keep it PURE

### **Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)**

**4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

- Don't Deny Each Other

### **1 Corinthians 7:1–5 (NKJV)**

**1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.**

**2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.**

**3** *Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*

**4** *The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

**5** *Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

- Practical advice
  - Men understand this – your wife prefers INTIMACY before SEX
  - Women understand this – your husband prefers SEX before INTIMACY

## **Closing**

- So - Remember!
  - Marriage is not so much about finding the right person; it's more about being the right person.
    - It means choosing to be loving and caring when you don't feel like it.
    - It means choosing to stick it out when you don't feel like it and
    - It means choosing to treat each other with affection and kindness that Jesus embraces us with.
  - Marriage is not about being cherished by the one you love, it's about cherishing the one you love.
    - When you think about cherishing something you think about taking care of it, treating it with dignity and respect.
    - It's not giving 50/50. It's about giving 100% without expecting anything in return.

- It means treating each other with the love, dignity and respect that Jesus embraces us with.
- Marriage is not about being right; it is about giving up your rights.
  - In the quest to be right you can mess up a lot of wonderful dinners and ruin a lot of lovely weekends.
  - You will no longer be seen as two individuals, but as one flesh in the sight of God.
  - That process of becoming one is difficult and challenging and the most important words you can say to each other will be – I was wrong, please forgive me.