

Walking With Great Expectations

February 14th, 2021 | Pastor Al & Tava Brice

Every couple, when they marry, expect their marriage to last forever. It's the deepest desire of their hearts, their family, friends, and most importantly, it's God's desire for them.

Marriage, of course, was God's desire and His construct. Why? He desired man and woman to be fruitful and multiply, thereby bringing forth children and thereby establishing family, the family of God.

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

"Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

The only way for this to be fulfilled is have a marriage between a man and woman, male and female. These are the only two genders that God created. Anything outside of the union between male and female has not been created, desired, sanctioned, or blessed by God. Anything outside of this is constructed and inspired demonically by the kingdom of darkness to stop God's plan. The devil puts in man and woman's heart, thoughts in their minds, that they are different and should pursue what they feel and think, not what God has created or said, and the culture, separated from God by sinful natures, approves of this damaging and disastrous thinking. (see **Romans 1:25-28 NLT**) But Jesus came to set us free from all sinful lifestyles and give brand new lives filled with love, joy, and peace by being born again!!

Romans 1:25-28 (NLT)

"They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. 28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done."

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

1. This is God's first negative evaluation of an otherwise a perfect creation. (God has a spouse for each person, unless you're called by God to be celibate for God's purposes. Therefore, to pray for God's chosen spouse is very important)

2. The LORD God is portrayed as a father who obtains a bride for his son. The answer to the man's need is a helper who is just right for him.

Proverbs 18:22 (NLT)

"The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD."

She is his perfect complement, made in the same image of God

February 14th, 2021 | Pastor Al & Tava Brice

Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)

“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

She is given the same commission (see **Genesis 1:28 (NLT)**) and obligated by the same prohibition (see **Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)**). The man and woman, together and walking in love, harmony, and unified in purpose can fulfill God’s created purposes and succeed in life. God just doesn’t want our marriages to “work” but to be “successful”.

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

“Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT)

“But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

Genesis 2:21-25 (NLT)

“So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. 23 “At last!” the man exclaimed, “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’ 24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. (Unity: two different and unique individuals but unified and reigning together) 25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. (Shame came only after sinful disobedience followed up with overwhelming guilt and fear)”

3. So what one behavior characteristic showed up and showed out, with Adam and Eve, that sent the whole of humanity into eternal disaster? It’s the number one wrecking ball of marriages today!!

a. Selfishness – “being concerned excessively or exclusively, for oneself or one’s own advantage, pleasure, or welfare, regardless of others. Selfishness is the opposite of altruism or selflessness; and is also contrasted with self-centeredness, pride, egocentric, greedy, narrow mindedness, wrapped all up in oneself, and prejudice.”

This is what happened with Adam and Eve; the temptation stirred up the selfishness which thrust them into deciding what would be best for them regardless of what God had said.

James 1:12-16 (NLT)

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. 14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and

drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. 16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters."

4. Jesus is the only one Who can and has set us free from Selfishness. How does He want us to apply Selflessness to our lives and marriages?

Philippians 2:1-5 (NLT)

"Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? 2 Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. 3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. 5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."

James 3:15-18 (NLT)

"For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. 16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."