

FAMUARY (Part 1) “Forming the Family”

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~Often when we get to teaching like this—there are so many that turn a deaf ear.

~The reason is that we don’t equate our Spiritual growth with growth in these areas.

~But we teach that Spiritual growth influences the full spectrum of our lives.

~If you think of your Spirituality as a SILO that is different from your married life, work life, entertainment life...then you don’t fully understand the ALL INCLUSIVE CLAIM that God has made on your life.

~You can’t grow Spiritually and not grow as a husband or father...you don’t grow Spiritually and not grow in integrity and righteousness...you can’t grow Spiritually and not grow in your ability to LOVE as He loves, and connect in relationship.

~For too long we have considered ourselves to be growing in God, growing in Faith and Spirituality...but not CHANGING.

~YOU CANNOT GROW IN GOD AND NOT CHANGE AND BE TRANSFORMED.

~There is no doubt that God’s HIGHEST and BEST is revealed to us by His institution of the Family.

~The Family was God’s FIRST INSTITUTION...and in the Family unit He hid His face, His likeness, for the sole purpose that our SEED would SEE HIM within the framework of the family dynamic.

~Our Fundamental problem is that for the first time in history we are confronted with the need to re-define the meaning of the terms marriage and family.

~But just because the culture has re-oriented and redefined marriage and family...does not mean that God has.

~The other day I heard someone I love say “Well there’s no right and wrong way to do marriage and family, and raising kid’s”...and while you may subscribe to those thoughts as well, I would like to tell you **THERE IS A GOD WAY OF DOING IT!**

~**ALL OF THESE THINGS COME WITH AN INSTRUCTION MANUEL!!! (BIBLE)**

~**The reality is that “FAMILY” is undeniably UNDER SIEGE—the Divine foundations of the institutions of marriage and family have come under massive attack.**

~**This was a planned, strategic attempt at dulling the vision of God from the HOME.**

~Until we understand the dynamic of God’s original intent—and how our relationship with Him reveals how our marriage and family should look, we will always fall short of having the kinds of marriages and the kind of families that give Him Glory.

1. Marriage and Family are God's Divine Idea and Creation.

~Where there is anything that's designed, there is a designer.

~Whether it's a truck, building or train—or even a marriage and a family—there is always a mastermind behind the masterpiece.

~It is not a stroke of luck or a pick of the draw...when marriage and family is done well, God is behind it!

~If God is the designer and creator, then whatever challenges or enemies there be of the family order...if God designs it, He provides and protects it...**WHEN WE DO IT HIS WAY.**

1.) Marriage is created out of divine order.

~God not only created, but He appropriately **ARRANGED** in Divine Order.

~God came into chaos and confusion and immediately His presence began to **AUTHOR ORDER.**

~**Relationship and family is a creation of ORDER...any confusion is authored by our adversary, and is aided by our wrong actions, thoughts, and behaviors.**

~**Chaos is TAUGHT and LEARNED, and then PASSED from generation to generation.**

~These BEHAVIORS are toxic and destructive and we must have a MIND that is transformed, so that our family relationships can be appropriately ordered.

A. God uses His WORD to affect ORDER.

~When God stepped into chaos and confusion...He broke that cycle with HIS WORD.

~If we are to re-order our families and break the cycle of confusion and chaos...it will be by and through God's Word.

B. When it comes to God's Word...what we THINK or FEEL or WANT is irrelevant.

~If you are unwilling to admit what you see when you look in the MIRROR of the Word of God, you will continue to walk away unchanged and chained to a cycle of confusion.

(James 1:21-25) READ

~**It amazes me that people can LOOK at themselves, but never SEE themselves.**

~If we aren't careful we will harbor and protect the mindsets and behaviors that are perpetuating confusion and chaos in our lives.

~When we make EXCUSES we are providing safe harbor.

~When we BLAME others we are providing safe harbor.

~When refuse INSTRUCTION we are providing safe harbor.

C. If we remain BROKEN due to an unwillingness to be transformed by the Word, we cannot LEAD HEALING in our families.

~We must fully submit to the Word and allow it to begin to rightly order our MINDS...which will in turn begin to rightly order our lives, and as a result, our families.

2.) Marriage is based on a Covenant relationship.

~Covenant is based on giving and receiving.

~Covenant is BINDING.

~Covenant is witnessed by God Himself.

3.) Marriage reflects our relationship with God.

~Our relationship with God should be the standard for the way we relate to others in relationship, and certainly our marriage relationship.

~The characteristics of our relationship with God...**AUTHENTIC, VULNERABLE, and TRANSPARENT**...should be mirrored in our marriage relationship.

~If you are unable to have this kind of a GOD RELATIONSHIP...then it's likely that your marriage relationship will have difficulty in these areas as well.

2. The Divine Order to Marriage

~Marriage and Family is the full expression and design of God's image in human beings.

~Man's giving in marriage is a mirror image of his LOVE relationship to, covenant with, and becoming One with God himself—along with the power and commission to “CREATE” more individuals in Christ's likeness

~The Church should naturally grow and multiply as a result of our CHILDREN not just our CONVERTS.

~This is a beautiful mirror image—BUT when our relationship with God is marred it is likely that our marriage relationship will be unable to sustain.

~In Genesis we read: **(Gen 2:18, 21-22)** “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’ . . . So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib (side) he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.”

A. The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is a family, and thus man in God's image must be made a family as well. (Spiritual and Physical)

~Therefore, a man cannot completely realize the essence of his existence until he learns to exist WITH someone and FOR someone. (Spiritually and Naturally)

~Both **relationship** and **communion** are crucial to this process.

B. And so we see from Genesis 1 and 2 that God created woman from the side of man so that the man would not be ALONE.

~From the teaching of the New Testament, we also discover that He created the Church from the side of the second Adam—Christ—for the same reason—for intimate fellowship. (He has always had this DESIRE for Family and fellowship)

~The marital union and covenant, in all its dimensions, is meant to gloriously reveal the very image of God in ways that we can only begin to understand.

C. Together and rightly ordered, our united differences ignite the power and glory of creation itself, which is the consummate activity of God from the beginning.

~When we are rightly ordered in divine covenant both Spiritually and Physically...we are capable of CREATION!!! Which is revealing of God Himself!

~The power of that UNION is meant to gloriously reveal the very image of God to all the company of heaven and earth.

~**That is why Satan fights tooth and nail to pervert and distort rightly ordered human sexuality, holy matrimony, the family, and fatherhood in particular.**

~In fact, the amount of time and effort that Satan expends to destroy the image of God reflected in Family, marriage, fatherhood and human sexuality is a barometer of just how incredibly important it is to God's plan and the expression of His glory.

~This is why homosexuality mocks the ORDER and IMAGE of God in relationship...it has no ability to CREATE and therefore lacks the ability to resemble the image of God...and therefore cannot Glorify God.

~It becomes a mockery of His ORIGINAL INTENT for mankind.

3. “Covenant” is the Heart of the Marriage Mystery.

~Covenant is the fundamental tool that God has designed to order His relationship with mankind.

~Part of the understanding of the “Why?” of this mystery can be found in the understanding of covenant, which is the VEHICLE by which ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN are to establish the lifelong, faithful relationship.

~Covenant is also the fundamental tool that God has designed to construct and order His relationship with man.

A. A covenant is an exchange of PERSONS, as opposed to a contract, which is an exchange of PROMISES.

~Covenants are established by making an OATH—an oath that creates kinship between the two who are making the covenant.

~If you don't have an OATH, you don't have a covenant.

B. Christ strikes a covenant with us at salvation—one that is stronger than blood, one that establishes a divine, everlasting kinship bond.

~In making covenant with Him, God adopts us into His family and treats us as heirs to the family fortune.

~Only in Christianity does God bind Himself to man by swearing an oath.

~God put Himself under a curse if He didn't keep the terms of the covenant to Abraham and his seed.

~Since we did not keep our part of the covenant, **God became MAN and a CURSE for us in order to make us His covenant family...WOW!!!**

C. We have married Christ in word but have never consummated the marriage by giving ourselves to Him with the trust and abandon that we were designed to give.

~Rather than giving our all to Him, rather than submitting to the source of our life with joyful obedience, we have grumbled and complained and questioned Him at every turn in the road.

~We have rejected the call to love, which is a call to sacrificially give ourselves to Him just as He has sacrificially given Himself to us.

~We have defiled the marriage bed with other gods, with other idols.

~We have remained fixed on OURSELVES, offering only periodic, emotion laden gestures of love that only tease but never deliver.

~Christ has made promises and sworn and faithfully executed oaths to bind Himself to us and to bind evil and cast it off, if we will simply be true to Him in ways that are real.

4. Reflecting Our Relationship With God

~We need to live our lives knowing that we have been created for intimate union with God.

~We, as born again believers, need to live our lives in the knowledge of the fact that God has married us, both corporately, as the Body of Christ, and individually, as sons and daughters who He loves with such intensity that He was willing to let evil men torture Him on a Cross in order to win our hearts.

~We need to live our lives in the knowledge that, in fact, the end for which we have been created is just such an intimate union with God—that our marriage with God is designed to kick in with all cylinders when we give our lives in covenant commitment to Him at the point of our new birth...and that what God hath joined to Himself, no man can put asunder.

~This is one of the great mysteries of God. It is for this that we were born and that Christ died and rose again.

(Eph. 5:21-32) “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body.

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. **This is a profound mystery...but I am talking about Christ and the church.”**

~In this verse, Paul delivers the final brilliant stroke and focal point of the epistle, whose thematic roots go all the way back to the first chapter.

~Paul shockingly and brilliantly rips the veil that had hidden the answer to the mystery of the supreme purpose and end for God having saved us, as well as the mysteries behind God having made us male and female, sexual beings, called into faithful, monogamous, heterosexual relationships that were to personify the virtue of sacrificial love.

~This is the overarching theme and teaching of the Book of Ephesians—the great and high calling of the believer, the primary reason for creating and redeeming mankind.

~He wants to marry us!

~He wants us to be His lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward and forever more.

~In the Upper Room, with a towel wrapped around Him and a basin of water in front of Him, God incarnate knelt down to propose marriage...And what God hath brought together, let no one put asunder!

~And so we see why Satan is so intent in defacing and destroying human sexuality and marriage.

~He is trying to mock God...he is trying to mar the very image of God expressed on this earth through the marital bond.

~He is trying to rob God of His deepest and most passionate intention—that of marital union with man—because if he can destroy the beauty of the earthly bond, he can destroy in us any desire for the heavenly bond.

~You and I, and every believer, were created to live in marital union with God, both now and in the age to come.

~Everything about a healthy marital union on this earthly plane has been designed by God to be a **reflection** of the interaction that we are meant to have with God Himself.