



God's Design – November 5, 2017
Pastor Shannon Chapman

Man and Woman

Genesis 2:18-23

God defined humanity, sex and love and elevated them all.

God was not responding to a complaint by Adam that he felt alone; It was His sovereign assessment.

God's solution, "I will make him a helper fit for him."

1 Corinthians 11:9, *neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*

Eve would complete Adam to do what God intended him to do.

The covenant of oneness in marriage makes it possible for TWO to do what ONE could never do alone.

Oneness between Man and Woman

Genesis 2:24-25,

Leave

For a man to leave his family was not the custom of the day but rather for a man to marry and remain in their father's household.

Why leave?

In the covenant of oneness, marriage, your first obligation and loyalty needs to be towards your spouse.

Leaving describes the loyalty and intimacy that a husband is called to give to his wife.

Hold Fast (cleave)

The exact sense is, *and to stick to his wife*. Ex. Israel was repeatedly urged to stick to the Lord's covenantal relationship.

Marriage must be seen as a covenant and must be proclaimed before God and others.

One-flesh

Expresses the deepest form of intimacy.

Everything is shared in the covenant of oneness, no secrets!

True vulnerability in its most naked form...“felt no shame.”

For Adam and Eve, sexuality and God were all part of the same fabric.

Vows of Healthy Marriages

1. Priority

You must desire God to be your first priority and your spouse to be your second priority.

Your spouse should be before your kids, friends and every other relationship.

You have to work hard to protect this priority.

2. Pursuit

You need to commit to a lifelong pursuit of your spouse.

A practical approach to pursuit looks like this:

When you think something good, say it!

Husbands pursue your wives with words of affection.

Wives pursue your husbands with words of affirmation.

Men, your wives want to know, Do you love me today?

Wives your husbands want to know, Do you believe in me today?

When you think something special, do it.

Friendship in Marriage

Back to Back – Roommates

Side to Side – Co-workers

Face to face – Lovers

Conclusion

To abuse marriage is to abuse Christ and the Church!