

Marriage: God's Holy Sacrament 4

God's Role for Wives

(preached 10/2/22)

Please turn to *Genesis 3*.

Sermon #1: God's Holy Sacrament

- Marriage is a holy Sacrament that was created by God in Eden.
- It was the first act God performed after Adam & Eve were both created.
- The first words out of Adam's mouth confirmed his marriage.
- Marriage is a living testament to the Gospel, with Christ as the Husband and the Church as His wife.
- Let's not allow Satan, bad personal experience, and our flesh devalue marriage to "just a piece of paper," "a mere formality," or "a ball and chain."
- For the Christian desiring to follow and live out God's will, it's freedom and fulfillment!
- In sermon #1 I called upon any who make this mistake to repent and see marriage as God does: beautiful, wonderful, exalted, and His will!

Sermon #2: What is a Godly Husband?

- The first commandment ever given to men was "go to work."
- When we're married we're promoted from single hypocritical male to husband: a mighty champion and righteous steward.
- CHAMPION means protect her! Stand between her and anything that would harm her.
- STEWARD means we don't own her, Jesus has lent her to us for our time here on earth. When He comes to take her back, He expects that she will be well taken care of!
- While the command work for, provide, and protect our wives is from God, our flesh twisted and perverted it.
- Over and over in the OT whenever Israel worships the work of their own hands, they "forget" God.
- Pride is an emotion that's a cheap substitute for what earthly dad, Adam, lost when he got booted from Eden.
- Pride drives us to work, work, work because it tells us our only value is in our ability to produce and succeed.
- When we're no longer able to, the same voice stab us in the back and tells us we're worthless and no good to anyone.
- Before his fall, the earth didn't resist him and his efforts tilling the garden were marvelously successful. He would have fallen to his knees, thanking and praising God, for this success!
- Therefore he would have been filled with the Fruit of the Spirit and had plenty of love and joy to express to his wife Eve.

- After the fall when sin entered in pride replaced worship of the Lord and Adam would have bore the fruit of the flesh: anger, lust, impatience, contention, temper flares, etc. and his wife would then be the brunt of the same.
- Men: we're no longer under the curse of Adam because Jesus freed us.
- Our worth is no longer in our ability to produce, our success, our achievements, and the work of our hands.
- We are the workmanship of Jesus! Our worth is in what HE's made us to be!

Sermon #3: Secret to Loving our Wives.

- The secret is love our wives like we love our own bodies.
- We don't deny our flesh! When we're thirsty, we drink hungry we eat. We stop work or whatever to meet its needs.
- When it says its tired or injured, we drop everything and tend to it,
- We don't tell it its needs aren't important or to quit complaining.
- Our wives ARE our bodies.
- They submit to our authority, but we submit to their needs.
- If they're continually telling us their needs aren't being met, then it's time for us to do an internal pivot and strive to meet them.
- We're not talking food, shelter, or clothing either guys: emotional needs.
- This isn't surrender to our wives or acknowledging that she's right. This is not obedience to her.
- This is a commandment from God. It's surrender and obedience to Him.

TODAY.

Q1: Why is a male pastor preaching about God's roles for wives?

Q2: Wouldn't it be better if a woman preached about this subject?

Q3: What could a male pastor possibly know what it's like being a woman, much less a wife?

DISCLAIMER. I don't know what it's like to be a woman or wife nor am I in charge of defining this role. I'm not claiming to relate or empathize to the struggles wives endure.

WOMAN PREACHER AT MEN'S MEETING. Years ago I went to an all men's meeting and was stunned when the guest speaker was a woman. I confess I was deeply skeptical when she ascended to the pulpit and wondered what the host pastor was thinking. As she began to preach, however, she nailed it. How is this possible? The answer is that she had both the Spirit and Word of God to guide her and I walked out of the message not just "fed" by encouraged as a man.

SPIRIT AND WORD. What I do have, and why I can and am preaching about this, is because I was given the Word of God to read and the Spirit of God to lead in sharing Scriptural revelations. When the Bible was written, the Spirit chose several men like Solomon, Paul, and Peter to reveal the Lord's design for wives and my intention is to merely pass along the same.

Besides, Lysa Terkeurst wasn't available....

ADAM ALONE. When Adam was created he was alone and the GOE was his bachelor pad. He was immediately given 2 tasks: 1) work the Garden and 2) name all the animals. Adam immediately looked around and saw that even though all the male animals had female counterparts, he did not. Even though he only existed for a few hours before Eve was created, his *first experience as far as companionship is being alone & single. Not so for Eve.*

Genesis 2:21-22 (ESV)

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

When Eve first opened her eyes, she knew only oneness. She was never alone. She was created to complete Adam. Neither were superior or inferior to the other. Neither was more or less important or significant. *God designed Eve to be married.*

ADAM TRANSLATED. Remember the two translations for Adam: 1) Man and 2) Husband. Remember that, being created single and alone, Adam needed to get married and thus received an upgrade, a promotion from being a hypocritical male to a mighty champion and righteous steward.

There are two words God used for EVE: 1) Helper and 2) Woman.

HELPER. The label of helper isn't insulting nor degrading. It doesn't speak to inferiority in any way. It's the exact same label Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit, Who is God (*John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7*).

What was Eve to "help" Adam do? Tend the Garden of Eden. It was God's design for the two to work side by side and *Eden represents a holy & sacred place where God would meet with them.*

JERUSALEM—TEMPLE MOUNT. People say that the "lost" location of the GOE is in Iraq but that isn't true: it's Jerusalem and some even say it's the very place Solomon's Temple was built centuries later. That the Holy of Holies, where the *manifest presence of God dwelt atop the Ark, was the center of the Garden where the Tree of Life once was.*

ADAM & EVE WERE TO “WORK” THE GARDEN, KEEP IT BEAUTIFUL AND SACRED, SO THEY COULD COMMUNE WITH GOD.

The translation of the word “woman” is rich and deep. It means more than female but literally means “wife, married, one, together.”

Just as God had commanded Adam to work, and then as husband to work and keep his family, ***God commanded Eve to be one with Adam.*** To complete him in deep, intimate relationship where the two of them had eyes and hearts for God and each other.

POLYGAMY. I’m well aware that, later on in the Bible men took multiple wives...but that was only after the curse of sin and death entered into humanity. Before the Fall, while still in the Garden, God’s intention was one man with one woman for life.

Eden represents the human body, which was—from the very beginning—the true Temple of God meant to house the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19*).

GOD-SIZED HOLE. Before our Salvation we were single and while our minds, heart, and flesh may have pursued this world, ***our spirit longed for completion.*** It sought a deep intimacy and oneness it knew it lacked—we often call this “the God-sized hole” within.

WE FOUND IT WHEN JESUS PRESENTED HIMSELF TO US AND PROPOSED MARRIAGE.

SAVED. On the glorious day that He stood at the door and knocked and we opened it, He came in. He gave us His Holy Spirit as a guarantee and seal of His commitment to us—like an engagement ring for all to see and tell them “this one belongs to Jesus.”

MY TESTIMONY. I still remember the moment this happened to me. I was kneeling before Him and suddenly, deep within me, I felt this connection happen and I’ve never experience more love and intimacy than that moment. I didn’t know the Bible very well then, and I recall thinking that—once upon a time—humanity had this oneness with God then we lost it.

6000 years ago Adam failed. He was commanded to keep both Eden and his wife, and he lost both of them. By silencing the voice of God, the oneness with God was lost ***and his pure intimacy with Eve became strained because of sin.***

JESUS RESTORED. I realized through sobbing tears that Jesus died and rose 3 days later to reestablish this oneness. He restored that which was lost by Adam. He redeemed us from the power of sin, hell, and the grave. He got it all back.

EPHESIANS 5:32. Last week we expounded Ephesians 5 that talks about marriage, now let me quote verse 32:

Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)

³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Human marriage represents the relationship between Christ and us, the Church. Jesus is the Husband—our Mighty Champion and Righteous Steward—and we are His Bride-to-be that He is currently preparing for the Revelation 19 Wedding Ceremony.

ROLES. In human marriage, the husband is commanded by God to play the role of Christ and the wife is commanded by God to play the role of the Church.

JESUS LIVED FOR CHURCH. After Jesus was born in a human body/temple 2000 years ago, He never took an earthly wife because His true Bride was and is the Church. He chose to come down here and live among His people which He will do, forever, at His Second Coming.

LONG TO BE SNATCHED AWAY. As his wife-to-be, our spirits and hearts long for the trumpet to sound and for the Lord to descend from heaven with a shout. To snatch us away and bring us back to His Father's House that He has prepared for us in heaven.

Wives, God programmed you to long for this oneness with God first, then your earthly husband. To seek it, to prioritize it, and for it to bear fruit in the form of children. ***Your desire for his heart to long for you in the same way.***

THE FALL. But then something happened. Just as Adam replaced the voice of his wife with that of God, Eve replaced the voice of God with that of the devil.

Genesis 3:1-7 (ESV)

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,

knowing good and evil.”

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

LISTENED TO SATAN. Even though Eve correctly quotes God’s Word, she continues to listen to Satan. Why? Lucifer lost his status as a son of God when he rebelled and God stripped him of his glory. Satan lost the relationship with his Father.

Why did he approach Eve instead of Adam? Here is my take: ***he knew that Eve was designed by God to long for and seek out intimacy and oneness.***

MOST CRAFTY. Did you notice he didn’t offer himself up as a direct alternative? Just like verse 1 says, he’s the craftiest of all and went about it in a far more subtle way:

HE DECEIVED HER BY SAYING THAT, IF SHE ATE THIS FRUIT, SHE WOULD BE CLOSER TO GOD & ADAM.

THAT IF SHE ATE IT, SHE WOULD FULFILL HER DESIGN AND LONGING TO SEEK INTIMATE ONENESS.

DIVORCE. We’re not at the divorce sermon yet, but did you know that in America that 70% of divorces are initiated by women? Upon doing further research from law firms that litigate divorce, the #1 reason isn’t adultery or abuse—***it’s that their emotional needs aren’t being met.***

SENSITIVE WARNING!

“DID GOD REALLY SAY?” Ladies: if you were here the last 2 weeks, especially last week, you heard me confront the men yes? That all being said:

- Are there times when the voice the serpent is whispering and you can hear him?
- Even though you know what God has said about marriage & divorce, perhaps Satan’s reply is “did God really say that?”
- Perhaps the wily devil is suggesting that maybe, just maybe, there’s another guy out there who will be more attentive than your husband, who will finally love you the way you need to be loved?

That's not the voice of God. It's not the Holy Spirit. It's another spirit trying to do the same with you as it did with Eve—*appeal to your longing for intimate oneness.*

Look back at verse 6: before listening to the Devil, Eve was likely repulsed by the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Not because it was rotten or full of worms, but because God said “don't eat it.” According to verse 6, *after listening the serpent*, the fruit suddenly looked good. The ESV says “it was a DELIGHT to the eyes.”

If what you know to be forbidden fruit starts to look good, it's not God prompting you to eat it.

God never ever commands, suggests, or offers something which goes against His Word.

The longing in your heart for oneness and intimacy is from God and represents humanity longing for the same with Christ.

Yet just as the Fall corrupted Adam's design, the same thing happened with Eve. Over and over in the OT, Israel—representing God's wife—strayed from Him and go after other gods. Specifically, Baal. The translation of the name Baal is false husband, and harsh master.

CONFIRM GOD'S VOICE. Baal has returned to today's world and its more important however to seek and confirm the voice God first, before any other desires or longings.

Let's go back to expositing Genesis 3. After they eat the FF, God enters the Garden and seeks them out. First He pronounces a curse upon the serpent and one part is especially fascinating:

Genesis 3:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ **I will put enmity between you and the woman,** and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Verse 15 stands out to me: why does God declare enmity between Satan and THE WOMAN? The other translation of enmity is “hatred.” Why didn't God include Adam or just name him?

He explains it in the rest of the verse: *because she will bear children.*

Jesus and His Bride coming together represent the Gospel being shared and people receiving Christ. In the Book of Acts, the Church grew exponentially and spread quickly. As more sons and daughters of God were born—again—they continued to expand into the known world which is exactly what Jesus both commanded (*Matthew 28:19*) and prophesied would happen (*Matthew 24:14, Mark 16:15*).

Verse 15 of Genesis 3: *the war is between the offspring of Satan vs. that of God.*

Despite the great power of the devil and his angels, it's humanity who populates and dominates the planet. The Devils desire ever since God cursed him is to kill us. The world's elites, whom all worship the Devil, love to talk about "the problem of overpopulation" and are always seeking to control it. Recently the Governor of CA attempted to quote the Bible to justify abortion and claimed that God approves of it, when in fact its nothing more than Satan taking out his Genesis 3:15 hatred upon the seed of the woman.

You and I are Jesus' Bride and when we lead another soul to the Saving Grace of our Husband, we are bearing children...and the Devil hates all of us for it.

ROOT OF HATRED. The root of Satan's hatred is God's prophecy that the sons and daughters of God would prevail over him, starting with Jesus—Who is stomping upon Satan's head.

Genesis 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

BEARING CHILDREN. We'll address submission in next week's sermon, but let's talk of bearing children.

- Just like Jesus on the Cross, a child comes forth with water and blood.
- And just like Jesus at the resurrection, the child comes out from a dark womb out into the sunlight and new life.

When talking about His death on the Cross and Resurrection, our Lord said this:

John 16:21-22 (ESV)

²¹ When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

²² So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

You having kids represents the Church giving birth to new sons and daughters of God. It's a fulfillment of God's prophecy that the Gospel would go to the whole world and prevail over Satan.

You were literally created for marriage and motherhood, ladies. This doesn't mean you can't have a career, hobbies, and dreams. Debra was a judge of Israel, Priscilla labored in the Gospel with Paul, and Timothy's mother & grandmother were the ones credited forever for inspiring & discipling Timothy. In the NT women were given the gift of prophecy and even the office of a Prophet. Therefore please don't interpret me as saying you should only be wives and mothers, and nothing else.

That being said, a wife and mother is a picture of God's glorious church, washed by the water of the Word, ready for her divine Husband to take her hand in His and lead her into Paradise! You are a fulfillment of the Word of the Lord, literally!

VERSE 16. Now let's get to the final part of verse 16 we're focusing on today—another part of the consequence for eating the FF and the Fall. Just as Adam would be resisted by both the earth and his own flesh, ***the longing for intimacy and oneness in Eve would be misdirected.***

PRE-FALL EVE OPENED HER EYES AND THE FIRST PERSON SHE EVER SAW—THE FIRST ONE SHE EVER CONNECTED WITH—WAS JESUS.

BROUGHT HER TO ADAM. Genesis 2:22 states God had to BRING her to Adam, meaning she was some distance away from her husband when she was formed. It was Jesus Who completed Eve and remember: Adam was the copy of Jesus.

Christ is the eternal husband whereas human men are temporary ones for there is no human marriage in Heaven.

Eve's spirit connected and instantly became imprinted to Christ first, and then Adam.

Then the Fall happened and the negative consequence upon Eve was that her connected oneness to God was lost, and she looked solely to her husband for fulfillment. She replaced God with Adam.

HE AIN'T JESUS. Ladies here are two things you already know: 1) your husband, past or present, ain't Jesus and 2) he doesn't and can't fulfill the God-sized hole that was left inside you after the Fall.

DREAM. Over the years the Lord has communicated to me in dreams. They've ranged anywhere from Him addressing a problem in my life to dramatic, end times dreams similar to the Book of Revelation.

There's only 1 dream He's ever given me twice and here it is: I was in my house sitting on my couch. Sitting across from me also on a couch was my wife...with another Man. The two of them were holding hands and looking at each other with those big, googly eyes of people who are very much in love. They were talking back and forth with each other, and her face was full of joy and love for Him.

I stared at them both with great sorrow, because I believed I was losing her. I wanted all that love, admiration, and joy of hers to be directed to me, but she only had eyes for Him. Even through my sorrow, I wasn't angry nor was I feeling cheated on or betrayed in ANY way. In the dream I recall thinking it was strange that I ****wasn't**** feeling those things. The only thing I could think was that I didn't blame her because this guy was really, really great. He was a bright shining Sun who made me look like a flickering candle.

Then the scene shifted and the two of them were inside a brand new house that was still under construction. The man was now dressed like a Carpenter...and so was my wife. They were both wearing work jeans, boots, and a tool belt. The man was directing several of his employees who were diligently working and my wife was helping too. I stood at the entrance and stared at her in a longing manner and, for one moment, she shot a look of great sympathy my way...but her love was still for the Carpenter.

I woke up still feeling sad and I begged the Lord for an interpretation. He replied: **“the Man in the dream is Me.”**

NO LONGER UNDER CURSE. Because of Jesus' great work on the Cross and at the Resurrection, ladies, you're no longer under the curse of the Fall.

- Jesus has taken part of Himself, the Holy Spirit, and placed Him within you.
- While your connection to Him isn't physical like its designed to be with your earthly husband, Christ is your first and best.
- He's the only One Who can satisfy the intense longing in your heart that you feel.

Your earthly husband is your temporary steward until such a time as you return to Jesus fully.

NOT OFF HOOK. The last two sermons clearly show that neither the Holy Spirit nor me is letting him off the hook or attempting to justify any neglect on his part.

That being said, now comes the call for repentance.

- LADIES: have you truly been looking to Christ to be your first and greatest oneness?
- Or have you been looking to your husband, or FOR a husband, to fulfill that?
- How often do you spend time with Jesus? How often do you speak with Him and allow Him to speak with you?
- When Christ is the first desire of any man or woman, we'll be full of the Spirit's Fruit.
- In other words, we cannot claim that Jesus is first in our lives and be hard hearted toward our spouse at the same time.
- Today I call upon you to turn your desire to Jesus first, and your husband second.

In Revelation 2:4, Jesus calls upon the church at Ephesus to remember their First Love, and that is none other than Christ Jesus.