

Series: **Proud of Marriage**
Today's Title: ***"The Alpha Female"***

July 7, 2024 – *Selected passages*

Objective: To help people know the details of Eve's life and how we see the spiritual truths of the Gospel in her life.

It's good to be back.

Thanks to Dr. Steve Ingino for filling in last week.

Kim and I took a long weekend and had a wonderful time together – along with some granddaughter time!

I also want to give you a quick update... we have assembled the Worship Pastor Search Team, and we had our first meeting on June 20.

We will continue working to find the person God is leading to this position. We would appreciate your prayers.

Opening Prayer

The pages in the Bible are full of the historical accounts of amazing people.

Some truly wonderful – others not so much.

It's a record of reality – real people – who lived real lives – in ancient times – and God's interaction with them – and their response to God.

There are many amazing men – who risked their lives for the sake of God's Kingdom.

But there were also amazing women who risked their lives and demonstrated incredible faith in their choices, their actions, and their words.

Today I'm beginning a new series which will look at the Great Women in the Bible.

There are some amazing women – who did some amazing things – and we're blessed today because of their life. So, for the next 16 Sundays, we will take some time – focusing on some of the Great Women of the Bible.

I'm starting the series today by looking at Eve.

“The Alpha Female”

In Hebrew, her name means, ‘Life’, or ‘The Living’ – which is why in **Genesis 3:20** Adam calls her “The Mother of the living”.

She was the final creative act of God in the Creation Account.

There are only 4x in the Bible where her name is used. She is mentioned 2x in the O.T.

Genesis 3:20

“The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”

Genesis 4:1

“Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain...”

2x in the N.T.

2 Corinthians 11:3

“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

1 Timothy 2:13

“For Adam was formed first, then Eve...”

She is a major person in the story of humanity.

We'll look at 3 parts of Eve's story today.

Each of these parts are not only actual history, but they speak directly to our life today as men and women.

1. Her creation.

We are introduced to Eve in the 1st chapter of the Bible, but in a general sense.

In the 2nd chapter, we see the details of her creation.

Genesis 2:20-25

The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

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.

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

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

There are a number of details we can pull from this account, which not only tell us about Eve, but about all women.

The creation of Eve shows us *Eve's equality with Adam*. She is taken from his flesh – they shared the same essential nature.

“rib” is not the best translation of the Hebrew word used. This word is used 35x in the O.T. and this is the only time it is translated as “rib”.

It normally means “side”. (*The Genesis Record*, by Henry M. Morris, p. 100)

The primary point for us to know and understand is that God used what He had already created from the dust – to form the first woman.

The woman was made from the man's flesh, tissue, bone, and blood – giving the man and woman a shared and common physiology.

Her soul is directly from God, like each of us – but her body is directly tied to Adam's body – his bone, flesh, and blood.

This indicates equality – but not sameness.

They are not the same – they are different, even though their composition is from the same source.

God created her as Adam's counterpart – his “helper” (2:18).

We read in **Genesis 1:27** that Eve was made in God's image, just as Adam was.

She was not inferior to Adam – she had the same dignity as Adam – same spiritual capacity as he did.

We also see the ideal unity in marriage in Eve – and her husband, Adam. Jesus referred to Eve, not by name, but generally in **Matthew 19** when He was teaching that marriage was God’s idea from the very beginning – and it was to be a life-long commitment.

In the creation account we see how deep and intimate marriage is supposed to be.

It is not just a physical union, but a spiritual one as well.

The couple was perfectly matched for each other – and for the work God gave them.

Another detail here is that Eve’s creation reveals the divine care and call for women in life and marriage.

Eve was Adam’s equal – equal value and dignity – but God gave each a role to live by. Adam was the head – the leader – Eve was his crucial helpmate. This is not an issue of importance, but of divinely ordered roles. Eve is what was missing in God’s perfect – yet incomplete creation.

I believe this ‘incompleteness’ (if we can use that word) WAS not an oversight or unknown detail that God was unaware of.

I believe He intentionally held off on her creation – to prove a point to Adam – and also to all of humanity – that men and women are equally dignified in the eyes of God.

They both carry the image of God.

They both have the spiritual capacity for a relationship with God.

They are not designed to live alone – but with the other – in love, with a common purpose, yet a unique calling and role in life.

2. Her temptation.

Eve was tempted by the Devil – who appeared to her in the form of the serpent.

In her temptation, we see some similarities to the temptations we face today.

Genesis 3:1-7 is where we read of the temptation of Eve and the fall of humanity.

Genesis 3: 1b-5

He (the serpent – the Devil) said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 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.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Henry Morris makes this point clear – and our own experience confirms what Morris says.

“We will find that sin always begins by questioning either the Word of God or the goodness of God, or both.”

(The Genesis Record, by Henry M. Morris, p. 110)

That is exactly what we find in these verses.

Doubting God’s Word – and then doubting that God is good or truthful in what He has said.

Notice that either Adam or Eve added to what God had told Adam. God never told them they couldn’t touch the tree. (See 2:16-17)

God’s Word is sufficient – we don’t need to add anything to it to make it stronger or to improve it in some way.

Cult groups typically add to God’s Word – to create more rules and controls on people.

Theological liberals delete, ignore, or explain away parts of the Bible – to remove any limitations on sinful attitudes or actions.

Yet – even today – this is what we often do in our own lives.

We don’t believe a specific teaching in the Bible (God’s Word) – or we doubt that what the Bible teaches is good – or the best thing.

We think we have a better way of doing things – and we set aside God’s truth / commands – and put our own truth or thoughts in its place.

Genesis 3 is one of the darkest passages in all of Scripture.

The perfect, sinless creation is in 1 moment – in 1 small, simple act, tainted with sin.

One thing to Eve's credit which doesn't receive much recognition or praise is how she owned her sin – she didn't make excuses or try to justify what she did.

Genesis 3:13

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

Compared to Adam's response - which was to point his finger at his wife.

Genesis 3:12

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Eve owns her sin.

Some say that Eve is blaming the serpent.

I'm not convinced of that.

It is true that she was tempted and deceived by the serpent.

But she doesn't blame Adam for what she did – she doesn't blame God – she says, "...and I ate."

This was the low point for Eve in the Bible.

The result is the curse that God declares.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman He (God) 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.”

The curse to Eve has 2 parts.

The first part was multiplying the “pain in childbearing”.

In a sense, the curse on Eve / all women – that there would be pain and sorrow in giving birth – was disastrous – but not deadly.

As a man – I won’t go into any detail regarding the difficulty you ladies have in giving birth.

But there is also a point of joy here – that she would go on living, and she would give birth to children.

Death – due to sin – would not be immediate.

Life would go on – but with more difficulty.

The second part of the curse was that her “...desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” – **Genesis 3:16**

This meant that women would desire to lead – to usurp the God-given order and roles of husband and wife – and there would be conflict in the marriage relationship as a result.

Eve would now chafe under Adam’s leadership and his tendency will be to domineer over her.

This is why we have various struggles in marriage. Marriage is an amazing gift from God.

Apart from salvation, I believe it's the greatest gift and blessing in this life.

But it has its moments and challenges.

The strife and struggle for who will lead the marriage...

- Who will make the decisions...
- Who will determine where to go on vacation...
- What to watch on TV...
- What to make for dinner...
- What clothes to buy...
- Who will decide how to raise the kids...
- How to discipline the kids...
- What church to attend...
- What ministry to serve in...
- How much will you give to the church...
- Who should you invite over for dinner...
- What birthday party will you attend...
- How much will you spend on the birthday gift?

One devastating result of sin is conflict in the home – between the husband and wife.

Here's a very interesting truth we see in the Bible.

Even though it's clear in **Genesis 3** that Eve was the first one to sin, the Bible holds Adam responsible because of his role as leader – as 'head' of the marriage.

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man...”

Romans 5:18-19

“For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...”

This is not an attempt to excuse Eve of her guilt, but to point out the initial failure in the Garden was Adam's passiveness.

Adam was responsible to lead – to protect his wife. Even though the text clearly states Adam “...was with her...” – he doesn't prevent her from making this devastating choice.

She was giving in to the temptation – but Adam does nothing to step in and stop what was happening.

According to the text – he does nothing.

He should have... but he didn't.

This is why the Bible holds Adam responsible for sin entering the human race.

The Bible doesn't pardon Eve – or excuse her actions. She is also guilty.

But Adam carries the burden of responsibility here.

3. Her legacy.

In a sense – each of us here – each of us watching – every human being is part of Eve's legacy.

We can all trace our family lineage back to her.

She truly is ‘The Mother of the Living’.

But specifically, in God’s curse, we also see the first glimpse of the Gospel.

Genesis 3:15 – God speaking to the serpent

“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.”

As God issues the curse, Eve realizes one of her offspring would defeat the one who deceived her.

How much of this did she understand?

We don’t know.

But we know she was overjoyed when she gave birth to Cain – her first born. Her joy would eventually become heartbreak as Cain would murder his brother, Eve’s second child, Abel.

Seth was another one of Eve’s children, and it was through Seth that a godly line of people emerged.

Genesis 4:25-26

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh.

At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”

Her legacy is one of life – and of faith.

Her legacy is also one of resilience – overcoming disasters.

The disaster of her own sin – the disaster of her son murdered by her other son.

Yet she persevered – and moved forward in life.

Apply it...

1. Eve reveals the value and dignity of women.

Her creation reveals the equal dignity of men **AND** women.

She reveals our common God-given mission – the image of God in each of us – and the unity of men and women in the creation.

2. Eve reveals the blessing of - and roles within marriage.

The stated problem in the perfect, yet incomplete creation reveals the essential nature of both men and women.

When Eve was presented to Adam it was obvious that she was the perfect match – the perfect complement to him. She was clearly what was missing.

3. Eve reveals our human weakness to temptation & sin.

She is an example of our human weakness to sin – that our desires will lead us away from God, if we don't keep our desires within the boundaries of obedience.

She is an example to us of how easy it is to justify – to explain away our sin.

We must resist the temptation to take away from – or add to God's Word.

4. Eve reveals God's *grace* and *forgiveness* to us.

Eve is also an encouragement to all of us – of God's grace and forgiveness, and the He uses sinners to accomplish His mission – to redeem His creation back to Himself.

Closing prayer