

Singles Class — Week 3

Aiming at the Target, Part 3: Roles, Union & Covenant



Good evening, Singles,

Before we begin, we want you all to take out your homework. Before you turn it in, go ahead and re-read your story. As you do, note what it included and, just as importantly, what it excluded. Keep this at the top of your mind as we go into the new material for this week.

Wrong Reasons vs. Right Reasons to Marry

We often use words without considering what they actually mean.

~~Illustration: a short clip built around the word "plethora"—someone using a word confidently without knowing its definition.~~

Ask the class: have you ever used a word you didn't really understand, or said one thing while meaning another?

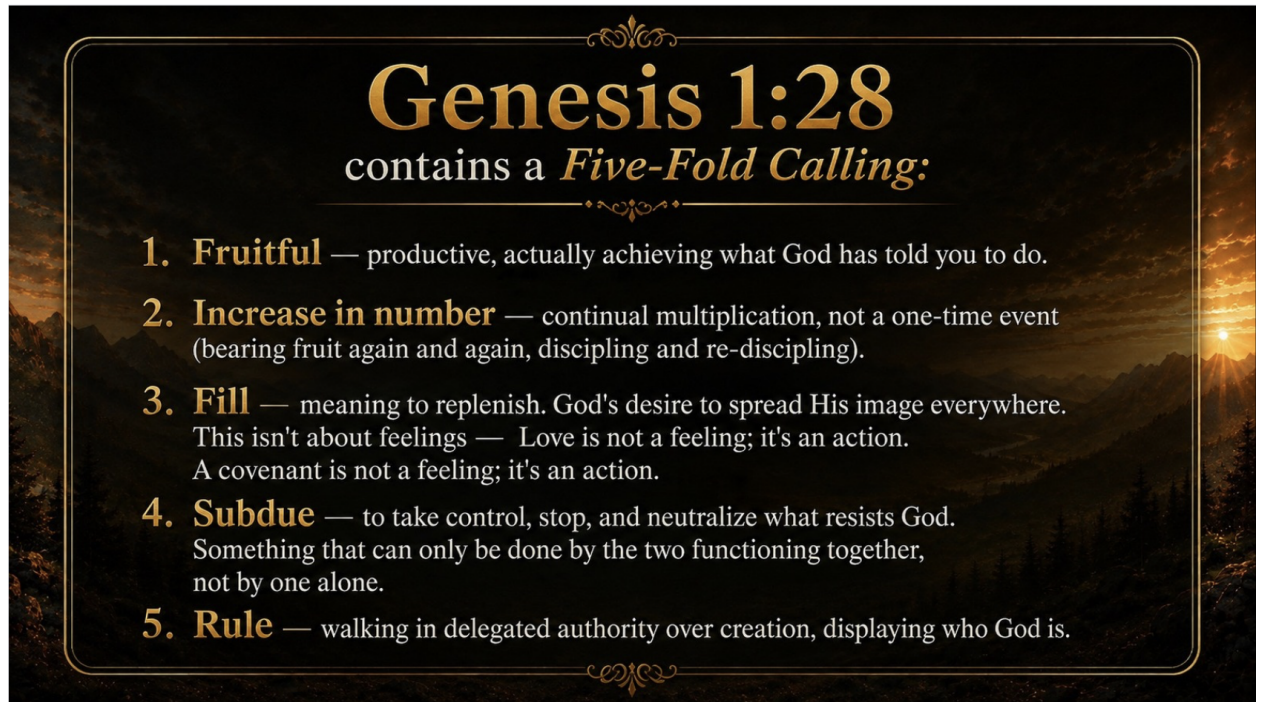
The same trap applies to marriage. If you were to be asked, "What do you want in an ideal marriage?" and someone responded— "To have a bunch of kids." While that is a good thing, it doesn't actually address the marriage but the result of it. Likewise, getting married simply because you don't want to be alone, or because you're excited about becoming a mother, makes marriage a means to an end rather than valuing the marriage itself. Having a lot of scattered reasons is not the same as the one right reason. You must be in the center of God's will — aiming at what God is aiming you at, not just hitting the target somewhere in the general vicinity.

There has always been [One Purpose From the Beginning](#).

- **Genesis 1:28 (ESV)**

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Let's start with a question, who is "them"? Of course its Adam and Eve — but Eve isn't created until the next chapter. At this moment she is still "in the side" of Adam. God always intended the blessing of this partnership even before there was a second partner on the scene. One became two; the two will become one. Before Adam knew Eve, God was already forming their purpose together.



Genesis 1:28 contains a **Five-Fold Calling**:

1. Fruitful — productive, actually achieving what God has told you to do.
2. Increase in number — continual multiplication, not a one-time event (bearing fruit again and again, discipling and re-discipling).
3. Fill — meaning to replenish. God's desire to spread His image everywhere. This isn't about feelings — Love is not a feeling; it's an action. A covenant is not a feeling; it's an action.
4. Subdue — to take control, stop, and neutralize what resists God. Something that can only be done by the two functioning together, not by one alone.
5. Rule — walking in delegated authority over creation, displaying who God is.

None of this can happen alone. Could Adam be fruitful, increase, fill, subdue, or rule by himself? No! The calling was always designed for two operating as one.

Genesis 2 — Adam's Need, Eve's Arrival

- **Genesis 2:18–24 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should

be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called

every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ 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. 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. ²³ 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.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Adam is given a job to name every living creature before Eve ever appears. Doing what God called him to reveals, over time, the need Adam actually has: he sees every creature paired with a helper, and realizes he has none. Let's break down some of the facets of this passage.

The text says, "It is not good for man to be alone" — but note the context: **this is spoken about a man who is already faithfully doing what he was called to do.** It's not a blanket promise against loneliness; it's a description of a specific kind of man, and a specific kind of need, **not just a desire to escape being alone.**

Next, it says "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" — Adam recognizes **Eve as being made of the same substance as himself.** During courtship, the temptation is to project a false identity (whether through appearance or personality) to get what you want. Authenticity before marriage is what allows genuine oneness after it.

Once joined, husband and wife become something new under heaven — no longer primarily identified as "the children of so-and-so," but as husband and wife, a new entity with a new function and standing.

Genesis 3 — The Fall Breaks Shalom, and Marriage Is Immediately Attacked

- **Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**

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."

The fall: Eve was deceived and ate; she gave it to Adam, who was not deceived but ate anyway. This is a failure of Adam's leadership to rightly pastor and cultivate his own wife. Both were responsible. Immediately after the fall, God reveals a battle plan through Genesis 3:15 — the war between the serpent and the woman's offspring. The ideal marriage, just established, comes under immediate attack — and the solution God gives runs through offspring.

Genesis 3:16–19 — Restoration, Not a Curse

There is an important distinction here: the ground and the serpent are cursed. The man and the woman are not. What follows is a **solution**, a deepened dependency on God and each other — not a punishment.

- **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.”

This describes a deepened need for dependency, not a curse. Read plainly: the primary role for women is to become a Godly wife and mother — that is a target women should be aiming at.

- **Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV)**

17 And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree

of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

For men, the difficulty of labor is what forms the right things inside of you. Read plainly: the primary role for men is to be a priest and provider in the home — far more than just a paycheck; it means bringing home the Word of God that sustains the whole household.

Let's discuss the practical implications: men, when evaluating someone you're interested in, you should be considering what kind of mother she would be — not only her looks.

Ladies, would you want a man who cannot lead you to repentance, who never washes you with the Word? If he can't lead you into repentance before marriage, it won't start happening after.

Adam names her Eve — "life" — because he understood the plan: godly offspring is the goal of the marriage covenant, not merely companionship.

Next, let's look at 1 Timothy 2:8–15, we will see Paul confirms the design from Genesis.

- **1 Timothy 2:8–10 (ESV)**

⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

Verses 9–10 contrast internal and external: not outward adornment (elaborate hairstyles, jewelry, expensive clothing) but the internal reality of good deeds. This is the same principle as an unguarded strength — physical beauty left unguarded, undressed in good deeds, becomes a weakness.

- **1 Timothy 2:11–12 (ESV)**

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

"Quietness" here means a stillness of soul, not literal silence — the correct order from God is meant to still a woman's internal fear and self-critical noise, not suppress her voice altogether.

Husbands must learn how to help quiet the internal chaos of a wife's thoughts — this is the husband's responsibility, not something to walk away from. Wives must learn to fully submit to this process. This is about order, not devaluation — older women teach younger women throughout the New Testament; the point is not usurping a husband's authority, but helping one another grow.

- **1 Timothy 2:13–15 (ESV)**

¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Paul isn't degrading women — he's calling back to the original order and design (Adam formed first, Eve second) to explain why the pattern of Genesis matters. Women are restored and find purpose through the

same call Eve carried: partnering in a task that produces the defeat of the enemy through godly offspring.

Men and women must learn to embrace their God-given roles and work together to achieve His will. The beautiful, sacred nature of being a good mother and raising a godly family cannot be disregarded just because the culture around us has — the will of God is genuinely at stake when these roles are rejected.

Let's go to John 10 and see that [Life to the full requires you to be aiming at shalom with God that leads you to a spouse](#)

(briefly review slide)



- John 10:10 (ESV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The enemy's target is the same one revealed back in Genesis 3: he works to steal the promises of God from your heart, kill the fruit (literal children and the redemptive purpose behind them), and destroy the marriage covenant itself — even in marriages that technically stay intact.

An abundant life is walking not as half a calling, but in the fullness of what God has for you — with the right spouse, producing godly children, functioning as one.

Marriage is designed to be an unending covenant. It is not a season, or a commitment you can get out of. Look at Malachi 2.

- **Malachi 2:13–16 (ESV)**

13 And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. **14** But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. **15** Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. **16** "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence,

says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

God hates divorce because of what it tears apart (His redemptive plan, and his image we represent). In Hebrew, adultery carries the sense of an awful tearing apart — attaching and tearing, attaching and tearing, until there's little left that feels valuable to give anyone. The Hebrew word for the union of husband and wife ("*debaq*") is the same word used in modern Hebrew for superglue. What God has glued together is not meant to be pulled apart.

- **Mark 10:6–9 (ESV)**

⁶ But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, ⁸ and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

This is an unending covenant — unlike friendships that quietly end after a move or a falling out. What if Joseph had divorced Mary based on the evidence available to him? He didn't — An angel came to Joseph explaining that their covenant wasn't broken and Joseph honored the sanctity of their marriage, and he was entrusted with raising Jesus as a result. If Joseph would have left when it was difficult he would have missed out on the role God gave him to raise the Messiah. Every marriage goes beyond just the husband and wife, it is meant to be multi generational.

Genesis 18:18–19 — The Multi-Generational Stakes

- **Genesis 18:18–19 (ESV)**

18 seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **19** For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

Abraham became great nation not just a great man. He was called God's friend, he was and his family would become a blessing to every other nation. This was the result of directing his household well. God chose him because he would be a family man first. Everything you accomplish for God can be lost in a single generation if you don't raise the next one rightly. This can't be fulfilled in one lifetime — it takes the generations, which is exactly why this class matters.

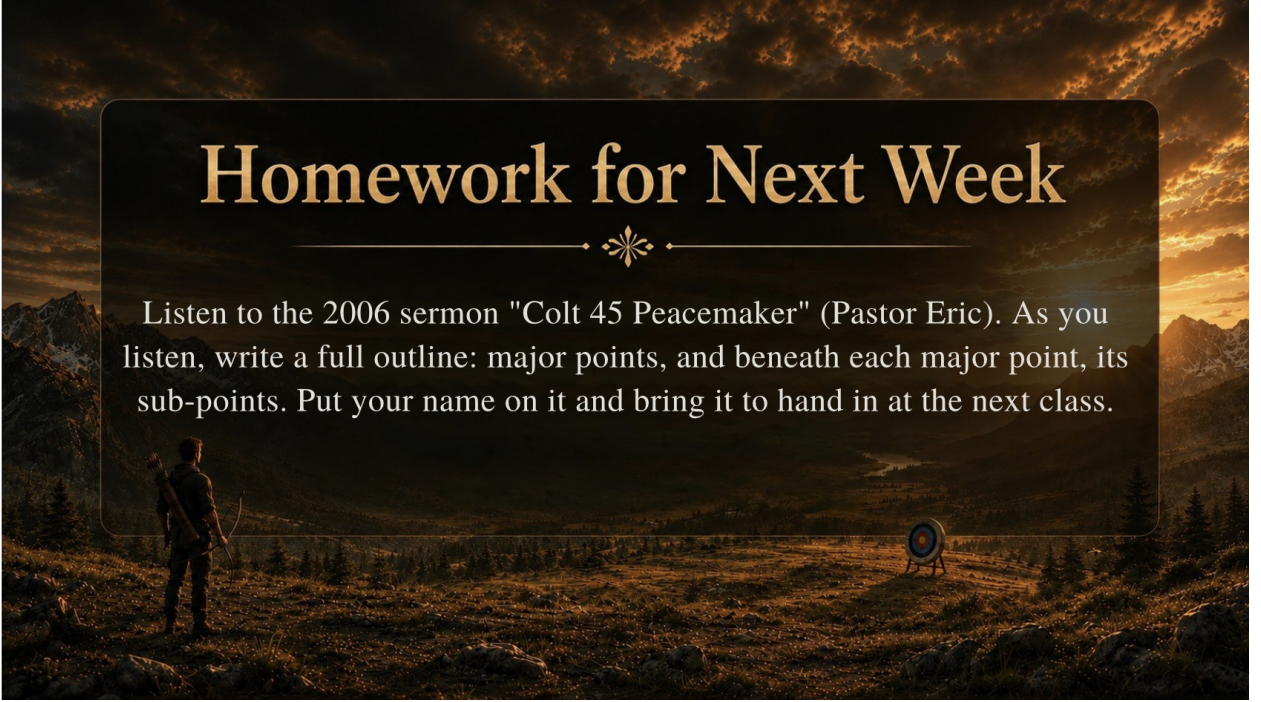
As this lesson comes to a close, we wanted to offer one last lesson:
[Don't Become Impatient](#)

Impatience causes you to rush and settle for something that isn't God's actual plan for you.

Ask yourself honestly: **if God brought your spouse to you this very minute, would you actually be ready?** If the answer isn't a resounding yes, be grateful for the time you still have to become who you need to be.

[Homework for Next Week](#)

Listen to the 2006 sermon "Colt 45 Peacemaker" (Pastor Eric). As you listen, write a full outline: major points, and beneath each major point, its sub-points. Put your name on it and bring it to hand in at the next class.



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