

## Renew Your Commitments! (Part 1) – Gen 2:21-25

Gen 2:21-25; This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of our marriage series titled *All Out Of Love*, from that cheesy 80's song by Air Supply

The idea being, that it describes far too many *marriages* in our day – they're all out of love; Maybe even yours

Or maybe you've hit some rough patches, and just need to rekindle your love

Either way, it requires that you get back to basics; Basics like remembering God's *purposes* for marriage, that we talked about *last* week

And then, this week – renewing your commitments; If you're going to have a marriage that's all, out of love, filled with love . . .

You need to renew your commitments from time to time; 4 of which are found right here in Gen 2, just like the purposes (**Intro**)

- So after God said in v18 that – “*It is not good that the man should be alone*; [And that he would make] *a helper fit for him*” . . . [It says in v21] *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. [25] And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

If you're all out of love, the first commitment you need to renew, is to . . .

### **Commitment #1 – Receive your mate (v21-23)**

The bottom line in v21-23 is that God made Eve, brought her to Adam, and he *received* her; He didn't look at her and tell God he'd think about it

He didn't register a complaint b/c she didn't measure up (wedding aisle)

He *received* her as indicated by his response – *This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh*; IOW perfect! I'll take her; And the implication is that Eve did the same

Which probably didn't *require* much of a commitment *before* the Fall – *before* they sinned; But afterwards, it was crucial; And still is

Prone to wander as we are, a rock solid commitment in marriage is critical

And there are 5 aspects of that commitment; The first of which is to receive your mate . . .

#### • **As God's provision**

God's provision for companionship, partnership, relationship, and intimacy; Like we saw last week; Fail to get *that* right, and the rest of your marriage will be wrong (sailboat)

Something Becky and I are reminded of every time we walk into our bedroom, with this painting on our wall (**photo** – precious moments)

I think I've showed this to you before; It's a precious moments drawing of a little boy as a police officer, giving a ticket to a little girl on a tricycle (prophetic; Grandma)

In our best times, it gives us warm fuzzies and makes us all “higgly-piggly”

And in our worst times, it reminds us of our commitment to *receive* one another, as God's perfect provision for our lives

Who else would have put two strong-willed people together?

A commitment to receive your mate as God's provision, is critical\*\*\*\*\*

The second aspect is to receive your mate . . .

#### • **For who they are**

That means strengths *and* weaknesses, successes *and* failures, curves *and* wrinkles

Which wasn't too hard early on, b/c you didn't think they *had* any weaknesses – you just thought they were cute; And then you woke up

And the things you thought were cute, now drive you crazy

The worst part of which, is that you've now pinned your hopes on them changing; On them being someone they're not; Is that you? If so, you're in for a life of frustration

The solution to which, is to receive them for who they are

Third, is to receive your mate . . .

#### • **With no agenda**

Your spouse is not your project; Nor are you their parent; So stop trying to change them or get them to do things they don't like

God may *use* you in their life to bring about change, yes; But it's not your responsibility, and it shouldn't be your goal

*Your* responsibility is to receive them with no agenda, and your goal is to love them where they're at; Anything else and you're going to make a mess of your marriage

Which I was at risk of doing for a long time in our marriage; I wanted Becky to be neater, and better; To do this, and not do that; And basically be just like me

And surprise – she's not; And thank God for it

It's critical to receive your mate with no agenda

And . . .

#### • **With no regrets**

As in stop wishing you weren't married to them, and start making the most of it

Stop wishing you'd married someone else, and start remembering the reasons you didn't; Stop looking for an escape route, and start blooming where you're planted

Stop lamenting the past, and start living in the present

If that hits home, you may need to renew your commitment

And then 5<sup>th</sup>, receive your mate . . .

#### • **All the time**

Saying “I do” at the altar is not a one-and-done thing; It's an ongoing, everyday decision of your will – *every day*; And sometimes every *moment* of every day

Like when you don't feel like it; Or your spouse rubs you wrong; Or you find out things about them you wish were different; Or they do something foolish; Or sinful

Or skeletons of past relationships crawl out of the closet

That's when you need to *really* receive them; B/c you made a commitment; You said, “I do;” And not just for some of the time, but *all* the time (**Summary**)

So if you've slipped in any of those things, or you're all out of love and failing miserably – ask God to forgive you, do the same with your spouse . . .

And then renew your commitment to receive them – as God's provision, for who they are, with no agenda, no regrets, all the time

2<sup>nd</sup>, the second commitment you may need to renew, or make in the first place, is to . . .

### **Commitment #2 – Leave your parents (v24)**

After Adam *receives* Eve, with all that entails, it says in v24 – *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother*; It's a command

When you get married, leave your parents; It's that simple

And lest you think this just applies to husbands b/c it says *a man shall leave his father and mother* – think again

If that were the case, he would also be the only one who had to *hold fast* in the marriage

And we know from 1 Cor 7 *that's* not the case

So the implication is that *both* spouses should leave their parents

- But that *doesn't* mean stop *honoring* your parents; That would contradict one of the 10 Commandments – *honor your father and mother* (Ex. 20:12)

As in respect them; Show them deference; Hold them in high regard; Love them fully

And there's no statute of limitations on that

Nor does leaving your parents mean that you can turn your back on them, and fail to give them what they need if you're able to supply it

Whether it's physical needs or emotional needs; That would run contrary to the

instruction of Jesus in Mk 7, to *help* your parents if necessary (Mk 7:9-13)

*Leave* them, yes; But don't forsake them; Don't ignore them; Don't cut them off

Now, with that said, you *do* need to cut the apron strings; Leave your parents first of all . .

- **By cutting the apron strings**

Or the cords of *allegiance*; Meaning that when you get married, you need to transfer your *primary* allegiance, and your emotional connection . . .

*From* your mom and dad, *to* your spouse – both of you

If don't, you'll undermine your intimacy, increase your strife, and constantly feel torn

- Which begs the question, how do you know? How do *u know* if you've cut the strings? Well, one of the *best* indicators, is who you go to when trouble arises in your life Who do you call first? Your husband, or your mom? Your wife, or your dad? Or when you have good news to share, who's the first speed dial you hit? Or when there's an important decision to make, who's your go-to person? If the answer is your parents, you haven't left them; You haven't cut the apron strings
- Or, another way to look at, is that you have to shift your priorities, your loyalties, and your accountability to your spouse Your *priorities*, in that your wife or husband should be the first consideration in all your decisions; Your *loyalties*, in that you should defer to the wishes of one another . . . *Before* the wishes of your mom and dad; If at all And your *accountability*, in that you no longer answer to your *parents* for your decisions, but to one another If you haven't shifted those things from your parents to your spouse – you haven't cut the apron strings

*Consult* with them on important things, sure; Listen to their wisdom and advice, yes But never make a decision just b/c *they* want you to, or one that runs contrary to your spouse; It's one of the few things Becky and I did *right* in our early years We made a commitment from the start that we would not talk to our parents about anything we hadn't *already* talked about with each other

Especially if it was a fight or a disagreement; And it saved us much heartache over time Leave your parents by cutting the apron strings

2<sup>nd</sup>, do so . . .

- **By cutting the purse strings**

As in the cords of *dependence*; IOW rely on one *another* for financial support

Figure out how to make ends meet with just the two of you – that's where memories are made and bonds are forged anyway

Like when Becky and I were first married, and lived in 400 sq ft apartment, where the living room was the entry way, and the kitchen was the hallway to the bedroom

All 8 feet of it; Lean times, but good times, b/c we cut the purse strings

- Now, that doesn't mean you should refuse any and all financial help from your parents Sometimes it's necessary; Sometimes you *need* help; Like when Becky's grandparents came through and bought us 3 bags of groceries one time; With ice cream Sometimes it's necessary to receive help, and rejecting it is just *pride* on your part

Nor is there anything wrong with parents helping their kids get *started* in marriage

There's much latitude there for personal convictions

But if the help continues beyond what they need; Or it has strings attached; Or it enables them to be poor stewards of what they *already* have . . .

You risk doing them more harm than good, by making de-pendents out of people who should be in-dependent

- On that note, we had some friends a while back whose parents bought the *wife* a new van every couple of years – as in, they put it in *her* name, and handed *her* the keys That's a problem – not just b/c they gave it when they didn't need it, but b/c she accepted it

And though it was a divisive issue in their marriage, the husband wouldn't refuse it, and was too weak to deny his in-laws the *month-long* visit that came with it

If you're going to leave your parents in a biblical sense – you must cut the *apron* strings, *and* the purse strings (**Summary**)

- And don't think that just because you're 1000 miles away, that you've done either Distance has nothing to do with it; Nor does *time* I originally thought only *young* marrieds struggled with this, and then I started running into couple after couple who still struggled with it after being married for *decades* Like the husband in a marriage of 20 years, who called his mom *every single day*, b/c *she* was his go-to person instead of his wife; And their marriage stunk b/c of it; Hello

Leaving your parents has nothing to do with distance, nothing to do with time, and *it doesn't happen by itself*; The purse strings and apron strings won't sever themselves *You* have to do it – both of you

And here's the kicker; The same is true of your parents – they *too* have to let go

They have to let go of their desire to make everything easy; And feel good about providing; And be so involved in their lives; My parents were great about this

Otherwise, they'll become disillusioned, hurt, and angry – b/c you're not depending on them enough

- All of which can be illustrated by a couple of ropes, a pair of scissors, and 2 couples (Parents – Newlyweds; Hold on to each end – parents together, daughter alone)  
Before marriage, they're connected to one another via the apron strings and purse strings – the cords of allegiance and dependence; And that's good

But when they get married, it's not good; They need to cut those strings; Both of them  
And for the parents part, they need to let go  
Then and only then will the newlyweds fulfill their commitments to one another, and the parents retain a healthy relationship with their kids

Leave your parents by cutting the apron strings, by cutting the purse strings, and last . . .

- **By erasing your expectations**

Most of us come into marriage with so many preconceived notions of how things should happen, that we set ourselves up for failure; Or at least strife  
From day-to-day living, to long-term planning – we're filled with expectations

Like what your family traditions will look like around the holidays  
Or how the laundry should be folded – one of our issues; Or how many kids you should have; Or who cooks dinner; And what it should taste like  
All things that we pick up from our parents; And there's nothing wrong with them

The trouble starts when you expect *your* life and *your* marriage, to look the same as your mom and dad's; When that's the case, you'll *never* be satisfied  
B/c he's not your dad, and she's not your mom; And they come w/ different expectations; Better to *erase* your expectations and start fresh; Establishing your *own* life, and your *own* ways of doing things

- Does that mean you can't have some of the same *traditions* your parents did? Not at all  
Undoubtedly you will, and that's perfectly okay; Even good  
But the key is deciding on them *together*

And when it comes to the *trivial* things in life, like the fact that your wife doesn't fix *Jello* salad like your mom, or your husband isn't as *handy* as your dad . . .  
Just hold your tongue; He's not your dad, and she's not your mom  
He's your *husband*, and she's your *wife* (**Summary**)

So if you need to, erase your expectations, work together, and renew your commitments  
Your commitments to receive and leave

- And there's no better time than **Communion**, to search your heart, and get started  
So as the servers get ready, and the bread and the cup are distributed in a minute – let me encourage you to quiet your heart, confess your sin, and do just that  
Renew your commitment to the Lord first and foremost, and then your spouse if that applies, and then to one another; Renew *your* commitment, b/c his never wanes

Having given his life for you on the cross, and having received him by faith and repentance of your sins – he will never leave you or forsake you  
That's commitment; And one that we'd do well to emulate  
So let's spend some time in prayer, and when the time comes, I'll lead us in eating and drinking

- As a symbol of Christ's suffering, and his abiding presence within us – let's eat  
And as a symbol of his death, and the abiding covenant he guarantees – let's drink

Pray – Lord, help us; Help us to live these things out in our day to day lives; Show us our weaknesses and blind spots; And find us humble to change  
And as we give, will you bless exceedingly and abundantly both the giver and the gift?  
Maximizing its impact in our church and ministry? For your glory and our joy