

Biblical Principles of Marriage (Part 5) – Gen 2:18-25

Gen 2:18-25; This is the 5th message in our *Biblical Principles of Marriage* series, and thus far we've focused mostly on **singles**

Principle #1 – Single doesn't mean second class (Gal 3:28)

Principle #2 – If you're single, don't settle (Ps 15)

Principle #3 – Marriage is for most, but not all (Gen 2:18; 1 Cor 7:6-9)

Principle #4 – Being single has its advantages (1 Cor 7:25-40)

Including the fact that if you're married, you need to live *single-minded*; Focusing on the Lord

➤ Which brings us to Principle #5, from Gen 2

[18] *Then the LORD God said* [right after he made Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden], “*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.* [25] *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

It's the final act of creation, where God institutes what the Bible *later* refers to, as *marriage*; And the over-arching principle that we find here, is that . . .

Principle #5 – Marriage is a blessing (Gen 2:18-25)

That's principle #5 in our running list; It's a blessing, a privilege, an act of favor

An aspect of God's grace that's totally undeserved, incredible at its best, and

maddening at its worst; A blessing for you, your spouse, and mankind in general

Something to be honored, revered, protected, and preserved

Never taken lightly, and certainly not squandered

Given by God for certain purposes, and entrusted to us for certain ends

➤ But before we go there, let me give you a definition; A biblical definition
Marriage is . . .

• **A sacred, three-way, unconditional promise of life-long commitment between you, your spouse, and God.**

Sacred, in that it's a God-thing; Started by God and preserved by God; His design, for his glory

3-way, in that God is *in* it; One biological man, one biological woman, and God himself; He's a part of your union

And unconditional, in that you can't legitimately break it just b/c; It's a covenant

➤ That's what **Mal 2:14** says; Referring to the wife of your youth – *She is your companion and your wife by covenant*.

Not contract, where you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours

Or have an out in case of default

But a covenant; Where God intends for you to fulfill your marital responsibilities

regardless of whether your spouse does; Regardless of the circumstances

It's an *unconditional* promise*****

Not that God doesn't allow an out in the case of hard-hearted adultery or abandonment by an unbeliever; But that his *intent*, is that you stay together; And make it yours as well

Despite the offense; Despite the trouble; Despite the difficulty

That's the idea of a covenant; It's not dependent on the other person's performance

➤ And when it comes to marriage, God himself is a *party* to your covenant

(A) B/c he's a *witness* to every marriage the Bible says (Mal 2:14a); And . . .

(B) He's *present* in every marriage

Whether you realized it or not, when you stood at the altar and made your vows, you were making them to God as well; And invoking his *presence* in your marriage

B/c the next verse (**Mal 2:15**) in Malachi says – *Did he* [God] *not make them one* [the husband and wife], *with a portion of the Spirit in their union?* The Holy Spirit

It's a rhetorical question, to say that God not only joins us together, but joins *with* us

Especially so as believers who already *have* the Spirit

So marriage, is a sacred, three-way, unconditional promise of life-long commitment between you, your spouse, and God*****

And a massive blessing in and of itself

➤ But that's not where it stops; Gen 2 highlights even *more* reasons that marriage is such a blessing; Things we ought to fully enjoy and fully appreciate

B/c that's when God is most glorified; When we *fully* enjoy every gift from above; And *fully* appreciate every blessing he bestows

Starting with companionship; Marriage is a blessing b/c . . .

• **It satisfies our desire for companionship (v18a)**

It's the first of 4 blessings we find here, 3 of which we'll get to today

V18 – *It is not good that man should be alone*; Stop right there

Every time I read that, I think, “A-men; I hate being away from Becky;”

Not only b/c I love being with her, but b/c I hate being alone

If I'm away, I can't wait to get back; If she's away, I can't wait for her return

I'm wired for companionship; And so is she

We all are; Men and women alike

So much so, that *up* to that point in creation, God had looked on everything he created, and *saw that it was good*; Good

But when he created Adam he said – *It is not good* (18a); Not referring to Adam, but to his *loneliness*

Having been created in God's image, Adam had a built-in desire for companionship

B/c, there's companionship within the godhead – between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
So made in the *image* of God, Adam had the same affinity

And as his offspring, we're no different; We have an aversion for loneliness, and a desire companionship

Why do you think there are so many bars, clubs, and social organizations?

Or that solitary confinement is such an extreme form of punishment?

B/c the desire for companionship isn't being met

It's the way God designed us, and marriage is one of the ways he satisfies it

What a blessing

2nd . . .

• **It meets our need for partnership (v18b)**

18b – *I will make him a helper*; An aid; A partner; A colleague

Why? B/c Adam needed *help* to fulfill the responsibilities God had given him

Like subduing the earth, and filling it, and multiplying it (Gen 1:28)

The animals were helpful and useful to a point, but he needed someone to take *ownership* with him; Someone who could *share* the responsibilities

Someone with whom he could *partner*; To accomplish together, what he couldn't do alone

➤ Husbands, you *need* your wife's help; You *need* her partnership; You *need* her collaboration; To fulfill *your* calling and *your* responsibilities, just like Adam
You need her help to share burdens, accomplish tasks, make decisions, and deal w/ life

If you don't, you're either living in denial, or you're not doing all that God has *called* you to do; You're not the father, leader, provider, or servant that God *wants* you to be
If you were, you'd be *asking* for her help

➤ Wives, the same goes for you
By virtue of the fact that you are the weaker vessel from 1 Pet 3:7, you *too* have a need for partnership; You too need help
Most often in the form of support and encouragement from your husband; To flourish in your giftedness and flower in your roles; You need it
And if you don't, you *too* are living in denial; Or abdicating *your* responsibilities

We *need* each other; We *need* partnership; Especially if you're wired for marriage
And the sooner you admit it and embrace it, the sooner you'll experience the blessing of marriage to meet it

And then 3rd, marriage is a blessing b/c . . .

• **It gratifies our longing for relationship (v18b-23)**

Look at v18b again – *I will make a helper fit for him* God said; As in, someone suitable for Adam; Someone *like* him; Someone *comparable* to him

God was higher than he was, the animals were lower, and he was in no man's land

And the implication of the following verses, is that while Adam was naming the animals, he was actually *looking* for someone like himself

B/c it says in v20b that when he finished – *There was not found a helper fit for him*

He was looking; Indicating that there was a *longing*; A *longing* for relationship

➤ So God stepped in, did some supernatural surgery (21), and blessed him with Eve (22)

Someone who was a perfect fit, b/c she was both *like* him, and *opposite* him
Like him, b/c she was part of his flesh and blood, had the ability to think, and the capacity for emotions . . .

But *opposite* him, in terms of her physical fit and emotional chemistry

Something another man or animal could never be; What a blessing

And even more so when you consider Adam's response

This at last [he says in v23] is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh

“Finally, my longing for *relationship* is over; She's just like me; Spiritually alive and bearing God's image; And she compliments me in ways I couldn't have imagined”

She was gratifying to the core, and a fit in every sense of the word

➤ You see, God not only wired us to desire companionship and need partnership, but to *long* for *relationship* – a connection with someone; And therein lies the difference
Companionship can be satisfied by a person's *presence*; And partnership by a person's *help*; But relationship, can only be satisfied with a fit; A connection

And when Adam saw Eve, he felt it; Just like *you* did when you first met *your* spouse
And like I did when I met Becky; She made me feel like no other person ever had; And I didn't know the half of it at that point; We were made for each other
What a blessing; What a blessing

➤ The question is, does it still *feel* that way in your marriage? Does it? (**Summary**)
If so, you're doubly blessed; And you need to *count* your blessings; Setting aside some time, and naming them one by one as the old hymn goes
It's one of the ways to *appreciate* all that God has done in your marriage, and be blessed all over again

➤ If, on the other hand, you *don't* feel that way about your marriage, it *doesn't* seem like much of a blessing anymore – you need to go back to square one, and . . .

Receive your spouse all over again

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; He *received* her

This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; IOW I'll take her!

If you've gone through a rough patch in your marriage, and need to hit the re-set button, this is it; This is how

Or maybe you've just become complacent and don't appreciate one another any more

Or you're divorced and can't stand each other

Whatever the case, one of the keys to experiencing God's *blessing* again, is to *receive* them again; Not for who you *want* them to be, or who you *think* they should be
But for who they are; Strengths *and* weaknesses; Successes *and* failures

Take a look at this video in that respect (**I Am Second – Jeff and Cheryl Scruggs**)

➤ They received each other all over again; And now know the *blessing* of marriage all over again

How about you? Have you squandered the blessings of marriage? Not that you have to be
 divorced to receive your spouse all over again
Maybe you've grown complacent and take each other for granted
Or selfish, and take more than you give
Or hateful, and wish each other were gone

Whatever the case, as we go to prayer – get with the Lord, and ask him to do a work in
you, to receive your spouse anew

Pray – God, would you soften hearts; Even break them if necessary; Renew a right spirit
within us; Restore unto us the joy of our salvation, and the blessing of our marriages

Take some time to get right with Lord in this respect, and let him speak to you
You may even want to pray with your spouse
Whatever you do, make a commitment to receive your spouse all over again

Lord, forgive us of our complacency, and laziness, and selfishness in marriage
And help us to fully appreciate the blessings – your gift of companionship, and
 partnership, and relationship
We give now with a heart of thanks; For all you've given us; And love you for it
(Offertory – *Create in Me a Clean Heart*)

Close – Elder; *Summer at Harvest* this Wednesday at 6:30
 Harvest Men's Golf Classic next Friday (6/17); **Welcome Packet**