

God's Blueprint for Relational Renovation

Pt 2: God's Role in our Relationships. Romans 11:33-12:2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 8th

REFLECTION: Blueprints and Building Codes ensure a house is built to last. Since God is the architect of Relationships, His word Provides the Instructions identifying: What to Build (on). (Mt 7:24; 2 Tim 3:16,17); How to Build (1 Cor 13; 2 Tim. 2:19-22); and Who is responsible to build/maintain what. (Eph 5:15-6:4). (Ignoring His codes is dangerous. See Ps. 127:1)

DIRECTION: Marriage is often and erroneously viewed as a partnership or agreement between two people. When one member of that partnership violates the "contract" or when the don't get along, it seems reasonable to "dissolve" the partnership, much like someone would dissolve a business partnership. What if we're wrong about marriage? What if our foundation (understanding) is flawed? In Mt 19 Jesus took us back to Eden to remind us that:

God As The Designer Of Marriage.

1. Notice His design for the Parts of this marriage partnership.

Eccl. 4:9-12 *"Two are better than one; ... and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

A. God designed Marriage as a 3 fold "cord!"

You need at least 3 strings in order to "braid" a cord.

- 1) Man's Part
2. The Woman's Part
- 3) God's Part.

Without this 3rd strand, (God) the braid/cord/relationship unravels!

B. These roles are repeatedly reinforced in God's Word. Gen 2:21,22;

Mal 2:14 *"the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, ... yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one?"*

Mt 19:5,6 *"He which made them at the beginning made them male and female... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*

2. Notice the Process of this partnership: Mal 2:14

"the LORD hath been witness between thee and thy wife ...

A. Companionship: *"she thy companion,"* (Ḥaber'et: knit {joined} together)

B. Covenant: *"and the wife of thy covenant."* (berit': cutting, sacrifice)

From bara: to select, feed, render clear

C. Commitment. Mal 2:15 *"did not He make one?"* (eḥād: united)

1) God was involved in this covenant relationship.

2) How involved is He in yours?

3. Notice God's Purposes for designing this Partnership.

A. *"and wherefore (why) one?"* Mal. 2:15

1) Pleasure (Genesis 18:12; Pr 5:19)

2) Procreation (Genesis 1:22; Mal 2:15)

3) Partnership (1 Peter 3:7, Mal. 2:15)

4) Protection (1 Cor. 11:2; Eph 5:23-25)

5) Pattern (Eph. 5:31-33; Rev. 19:7)

B. What are the consequences of not fulfilling God's purposes?

Titus 2:5 *"that the word of God be not blasphemed."*

2Sam 12:14 *"by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme..."*

Heb. 12:11-13 *"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. herefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; (ektrepō: dislocated, rejected) but let it rather be healed."*

4. The Promise of God's Design Ps. 127; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pt 3:1-7

A. If we follow His plan, we can expect:

- 1) His Provision (Mt. 6:33; 2 Pt 1:3)
- 2) His Protection (Is. 48:10; Ps 91)
- 3) His Power (Phil. 4:13)
- 4) His Peace (grace). (1 Peter 3:7-11)

B. If we fail His plan, we can expect the consequences that God warned about in Mt 7:26,27 and Heb. 12:15 *"any man fail of the grace of God;*

- 1) *"lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble (enochleō: annoy, disturb) you,"*
- 2) *"and thereby many be defiled;" (miainō: contaminate, stained, sullied)*

Conclusion:

Since God is the original designer of Marriage:

- 1) Is He a vital "part" of your partnership?
- 2) Are you working with him through His Processes?
- 3) Are you cooperating with His Purposes?
- 4) Are you experiencing (good or bad) his Promises?

Application:

- Are you seeing some cracks (consequences) in your relationships?
- Are you willing to "inspect" your relationships in light of God's Word? (Ps 19:11-14; 139:123; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
- Are you willing to partner with God in a righteous "renovation".
(Ro. 12:2; 1 Cor 3:9-15)

He is, after all, a Master Carpenter!
(Mt 11:28-30; 2 Tim 2:20-21; Is 61:1-4)