

God's Purposes for Marriage Pt 1

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 17th

God created all things on purpose and for specific purposes! (*Col. 1:16,17; Rev. 4:11*)
Our culture is growing increasingly confused about foundational issues! Romans 1:28 tell us that rejection of God produces a “reprobate mind”. Instead of looking to God for answers, we’ve turned to social engineers, whose experiments have produced confusion and destruction. Jesus warned that *“broad is the way that leads to destruction...(Apōl’eia: ruin, waste) and many there be which go in thereat”* (Mt 7:13) In Rev. 9:2 Satan is called “Apollyon” (Destroyer!) He’s ultimately behind these social experiments that’s clouding human judgment. (2 Cor 4:4)

Relational Confusion isn’t new.

- Ancient Israel experimented with their marriages. (Mal. 2:11-16)
 - When Jesus was asked about relational complexities, he took back to Eden. (Mt 19:4-7)
- If we want to restore a taste of “Eden” to our marriages, we must get back to God’s purposes.

In the context of Marriage Malachi 2:15 asks: *“Did not He make one?.. and wherefore one”*

Why (for what purposes) did God “make marriage”?

1. Partnership. Gen. 2:18-24

Gen 2:18 *“It is not good that the man should be alone... I will make an help meet...”*

vs 24 *“for this cause shall a man leave father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one”*

Mal. 2:14 *“She is thy companion (Ḥābēr: knit together) and the wife of thy covenant”*

(Berîṭ’: from bārâ: to select, nourish, manifest.)

1 Cor. 7:3,4 *“Let the husband render to the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.”*

Ophei’lō (owed) eu’noia (kind, conjugal duty)

We prize our autonomy & “rights”, but God calls us to mutual submission! Eph. 5:21

It’s no longer about “Me”....but “WE”!

2. Protection. Gen. 2:18 *“it’s not good that the man should be alone,*

I will make him an help meet (‘ē’zer) for him.” from ‘āzar’: to surround and protect!

A. From Who or what do we need protection?

1) The World. 1 Jn 2:15-17; 1 Jn 5:19 *“we know the whole world lieth in wickedness”*

2) The Flesh (Ourselves) 1 Cor 7:1-5 *“it is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband... and wife render due benevolence: The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud (deprive) ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again...”* See also Pr. 5:15-23

3) The Devil. 1 Cor. 7:5 *“and come together again, that Satan tempt you not ...”*

The Devil is a divider! Lk 11:17; 1 Pt 3:7

3. Procreation. Gen 1:27-28 *“God created man in his own image, ... male and female...*

And God blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, replenish the earth, and subdue it”

Mal 2:15 *“did not he make one? wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed.”*

Ps 127:3-5 *“children are an heritage of the LORD: 3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy (blessed) is the man that hath his quiver full of them: “*



German Reformer Martin Luther married Katarina von Bora in 1525. He married Katie to “take pity” on her. When they first married, he was not in love with her. He said, *“I feel neither passionate love nor burning for my spouse.”* Worse, the main reason why Luther married Katie was to *“spite the pope.”* Nevertheless, they got married in the summer of 1525.

But something amazing happened after they married: Luther fell in love with his wife. He said, *“I love my Katie; yes, I love her more dearly than myself. There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage.”*

They were married for 21 years and had six children together.

Conclusion:

Jn 10:10 *“The thief comes to steal, kill, & destroy.*

I am come that they might have life, and that more abundantly”

Fortunately, we can follow the good Shepherd and experience life.

(See Isaiah 61:1-6 from which Jesus quoted in Luke 4:18-21)

Application:

God designed marriage for Partnership, Protection, and Procreation.

(as well as for Pleasure, Perfecting and a Picture.)

Will you allow the Designer (*author*) of life and love to become the Developer (*architect*) of yours?

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them life”

Jn 10:27-28

