

God's Purposes for Marriage Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 24th

God created all things on purpose and for specific purposes! (Col. 1:16,17; Rev. 4:11)

Among the "all things" which God created on purpose and for specific purposes;
Marriage holds a sacred place in His heart!

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 *"It is not good that the man should be alone..."*

Mal. 2:14 *"She is thy companion (Hābēr: knit together) and the wife of thy covenant"*

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!

Protection from The World (1 Jn 2:15-17; 1 Jn 5:19); Flesh (1 Cor 7:1-5) and Devil (1 Cor. 7:5)

3. **Procreation.** Gen 1:27-28 *"God created and blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply"*

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

4. **Pleasure** Gen 2:8 *"God planted ...Eden; ('ēden: delight, pleasant, voluptuous pleasure) and there he put the man..."*

➤ 1st use of "Pleasure" Gen 18:12 *"Sarah laughed, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure?"*

➤ Pr 5:18-19 *"rejoice with thy wife... Let her be as the loving (affectionate) hind and pleasant (gracious, pleasant, precious) roe; let her breasts satisfy (sate) thee at all times; and be thou ravished (enraptured) always with her love."*

➤ Song of Solomon 4:12 Before their wedding night:

"A garden (Eden) inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed..."

On their wedding night: vs 16 *"Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits."*

5:1 *I am come into my garden, my spouse: I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine"*

God's opinion of all this love making: Ch. 5:1 *"eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved!"*

➤ 1 Cor 7:4, 33-34 *"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... He or she that is married careth (takes thought) how he (or she) may please his wife (or her husband)." (Ares'kō: excite emotion)*

God brings two imperfect people together in marriage in order to:

5. **Perfect (mature) them!** Ps 138:7-8 *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: (ḥāyâ': recover, repair) The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me:* (gāmar': perform or bring to completion)

A. "Intimacy" (from Latin intimus) literally means "Innermost"

- 1) Intimacy (In-To-Me-See) requires Transparency.
- 2) Transparency requires Vulnerability!
- 3) Vulnerability requires Trust!

Gen 2:25 *"they were both naked, (exposed, vulnerable) the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."*

B. Why is vulnerability/transparency/Intimacy so hard?

- 1) It allows someone else to get close enough to really "see" us.
This allows them to help us! Heb 10:24 *"consider one another"* Rom 14:19 *"Edify one another"*
1 Jn 4:18 *"perfect (mature) love casts out fear"*

C. This is part of God's design for marriage. Eph. 5:17-30

6. To Be a Picture (example) Of His love to us!

- Eph. 5:30-32 *"For we are members of his body... For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."*
- Rev 19:7,8 *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."*

Conclusion:

- 1) God designed marriage for Partnership, Protection, Procreation, Pleasure, Perfecting, and as beautiful Picture (Example) of His love to us!
- 2) Satan, selfishness and sin marred this design. (Jn 10:10a)
- 3) Jesus came to restore it! (Jn 10:10b; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Luke 4:18-21; Is. 61:1-6)



Application:

Christ is the Designer (author) of life and love.

(Mal. 2:15, James 1:17)

*Will you allow him to become the Developer
(architect) of yours?*

1 Cor. 3:9