

Home Improvement

Part One: God's Blueprint for Relational Renovation. *Genesis 2:7,15-24*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 16

Relationships are under attack! This attack is complicated by; Building on the wrong foundations (Mt 7:24-27) or Ignorance of (or just ignoring) God's Blueprints and Building Code! (Ps. 127:1; Hosea 4:6) As a result, Holy Wedlock has become an unholy deadlock. God didn't design marriage for combat, but for companionship! (Mal 2:14,15) When you buy anything of value, you get an owners manual from the manufacturer. Many warn you that if you don't follow the manual, you will void the warrantee.

It should come as no surprise that life, and in particularly marriage, comes with a manual from the manufacturer. Ps. 127:1 warns us that failure to comply with the instructions will void the warrantee.

"Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it:"

When Jesus was asked about marriage conflicts in Mt. 19:3-9; He took them back to God's original blueprint. (Mt 19:3-9)

1. PROBLEM OF MAN. God used "Good" 10x to describe creation. Gen 1:31

"God saw everything that he made, and, behold, it was very good." (Me'od Tob: exceedingly bountiful, pleasant)

A. ADAM HAD PERFECT:

- 1) Power (Dominion) Gen. 1:26; Ps. 8:6
- 2) Possessions: He had it all!
- 3) Prosperity: Health and immortality *So what's the problem?*

B. THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING!!! *Gen 2:18) "it is not good that the man should be alone;"*

1) God created Adam with needs.

- a) Physical needs: *Food, Air, Water, Exercise*
- b) Spiritual needs: *Intimacy with God.*
- c) Soul (Emotional) needs: *Intimacy with others.*

2) We Have The Same Problem.

- 1) God created us with the same needs.
- 2) We often tend to ignore or think that we outgrow our emotional needs, but that's irrational!

C. THE DANGERS OF THIS DELEMMA. (We tend to extremes)

- 1) Self-Sufficiency: We either:
 - a) Deny our needs (of others) and/or
 - b) Determine to take care of them ourselves.
- 2) Self-Centeredness:
 - a) Deify my needs. (They're supreme)
 - b) This leads to manipulation or even Narcissism!
- 3) Self-Condernation: I shouldn't have needs.
 - a) Diminish myself for having needs.
 - b) This leads to isolation and rejection of God's design.

2. THE PROVISION OF GOD.

A. GOD TOOK THE INITIATIVE. *"I will make him an help meet for him." Gen. 2:18*

- 1) Was Adam qualified to provide his own "Help Meet"

B. GOD KNEW WHAT HE NEEDED FOR FULFILMENT *"an help meet for him"*

- 1) The phrase "Help meet" has at least two basic dimensions.
 - a) 'ēzer meaning to aid or help. (To Complete, not to Compete!)
 - b) 'ēzer comes from 'āzar' meaning to:
 - (1) Surround; Aid, and Protect;
 - (2) A "variant" (counterpart). She had to be different in order to do this!

- 2) **“For him”** 1 Cor. 11:8,9,12 *“For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man...”*

Not independent, but interdependent! Vs 12 *“For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.”*

C. God knows what (and who) you need also!

- 1) Adam had to “Sleep” in order for God to “operate”.
- 2) We want to direct the “Great Physician” in the performance of this delicate surgery.

3. THE PLAN OF GOD

A. GOD ESTABLISHED *RELATIONSHIPS* TO MEET OUR INTIMACY NEEDS.

- 1) **Marriage:** (Gen 2:24) *“shall a man leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife... they two shall be one”*
- 2) **Family:** (Psa 127:1) *(Psa 68:6) “God setteth the solitary in families: “*
- 3) **Church:** (Mat 16:18) *“upon this rock I will build my church;...”* (See also 1 Cor 12:24-26)
 - There are over **40** “one another commandments” directed to the church.
 - (John 13:34,35) *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*
- 4) Good and Godly **Friends:** Pr 17:17 *“A friend loveth at all times...”* (See also Pr. 27:5,6)
 - a) Beware of ungodly friends. 2Sam 13:3 *“But Amnon had a friend, ... a very subtle man.”*

4. THE PROGRAM OF SATAN (John 10:10)

A. SATAN ATTACKED THE FIRST MARRIAGE (Gen. 3)

- 1) **Separation.** Vs 1-4 Adam was not with Eve when Satan first showed up.
- 2) **Deception** *“Ye shall be as gods...”* (Vs 5)
- 3) **Temptation** Vs. 6
- 4) **Isolation** (running from God vs 8, blaming each other. Vs 12,13)

B. SATAN ATTACKED THE FIRST FAMILY in Gen. 4

- 1) Sibling Rivalry led to Jealousy, which led to Tragedy.
- 2) **2/3** US kids will grow up without either mom or dad.
- 3) Ave. Dad spends <**14** minutes each week with kids. **10** of those are spent in discipline. (Ep 6:4)

C. SATAN ATTACKED THE FIRST CHURCH (Mt 16:18) in Acts 4,5

- 1) Satan has multiple tools with which he attacks God’s people.
 - a) In the early church he used persecution, infiltration, Deception, and division. Acts 4,5

Conclusion:

We have a Problem, Satan has a Program, to **“Steal, kill, destroy”** (Jn 10:10a)

But God has made Provision and has a Plan:

- A plan of Redemption (Col 1:13-14; John 10:11)
- A plan of Renovation! Jn 10:10b,11, 27-28 (See also Romans 12:1,2)
Jn 10:27-28 *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”*

Who’s plan will you purpose to pursue? (John 10a or John 10b)

We’ll be focusing over these next several weeks on God’s PLAN for meeting our needs for Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Intimacy. Many have been building with the wrong blueprints and have almost given up. Let’s look back to the master designer and open **HIS** “owner’s manual” and begin to rebuild our lives and relationships.