

“Relational Renovation” Part 2 Ro. 11:33-12:2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb 23 AM

Blueprints and Building Codes ensure a house is built to last. Building a home without them is risky. Building a life without them is riskier. Trying to weave two hearts/lives together without them is downright dangerous! Blueprints and Building Codes provide:

- **Rules:** Minimum safe standards for the materials used to build with.
- **Roles:** Who’s responsible or qualified to build the various systems required.

Who sets these Rules and Roles in our Relationships?

Marriage is often viewed as a “contract” between two people. When one member of that partnership violates the “terms” of that contract the other naturally feels “cheated”. It seems reasonable to “dissolve” the partnership, much like someone would dissolve a business partnership.

What if marriage is more than a simple contract between 2 people?

What if dissolving the “contract” destroys more than the marriage?

Part 2: God’s Role in Marriage

Mal 2:14 " *the LORD hath been witness between thee and thy wife ... yet is she thy companion,* (Ḥaber’et: knit or joined together) *and the wife of thy covenant.*" (berit’: cutting, sacrifice) From bara: to select, feed, render clear!

Vs 15 *'did not He make one? (God was/ is) involved in this covenant relationship) And Wherefore one?'* (eḥād: united) **He had (and has) purposes for it!**

There are actually “3” partners in the Marriage Covenant. This is reinforced in Mt. 19:6

“What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

1. God as the Designer of Marriage

A. He designed it on Purpose. Gen. 2:18 *“I will make a help meet for him.”*

Gen. 2:22 *“And the rib, which the LORD had taken from man, made he woman, and brought her unto the man.”*

B. He designed it for specific purposes.

- **Pleasure** (Genesis 18:12)
- **Procreation** (Genesis 1:22)
- **Partnership** (1 Peter 3:7, Malachi 2:15)
- **Protection** (1 Cor. 11:2; Eph 5:23)
- **Pattern** (Eph. 5:31-33)

C. He provides the Blueprint! Ps. 127; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pt 3:1-7

1) If we follow His plan, we can expect:

- a) His *Provision* (Mt. 6:33)
- b) His *Protection* (Is. 48:10)
- c) His *Power & Grace* (Phil. 4:13)

2. GOD AS THE **DEVELOPER** OF MARRIAGE.

A. HE ACTIVELY OVERSEES THE PROCESS AND PROJECT.

- 1) He “knows the codes” and wants to build for eternity. (1 Cor 3:10-15)
 - a) He is more interested in developing our Character than our **happiness**.

What’s behind the wallpaper is more important than what’s on it!

- 2) Marriage doesn’t make us better, or worse; it merely **reveals** and **intensifies** *What’s already there!*
 - a) It often exposes our flaws, Not to shame us, but to **change** us! (Eph. 5:26,27; 1 Jn. 1:9)
 - b) The “inspection” doesn’t produce the problems, it simply reveals them!

While He is preparing a “place” for us, (Jn 14:6) He is preparing us for that place. (Ro. 8:28,29)

B. He “knows the storms” we’ll face, so He wants us to use quality materials. (Mt 7:24-27)

- 1) We often build our relationships out of “broken” material. 2 Tim. 2:20,21
- a) Thankfully, he’s good at remodeling! (Isaiah 61:1-3)

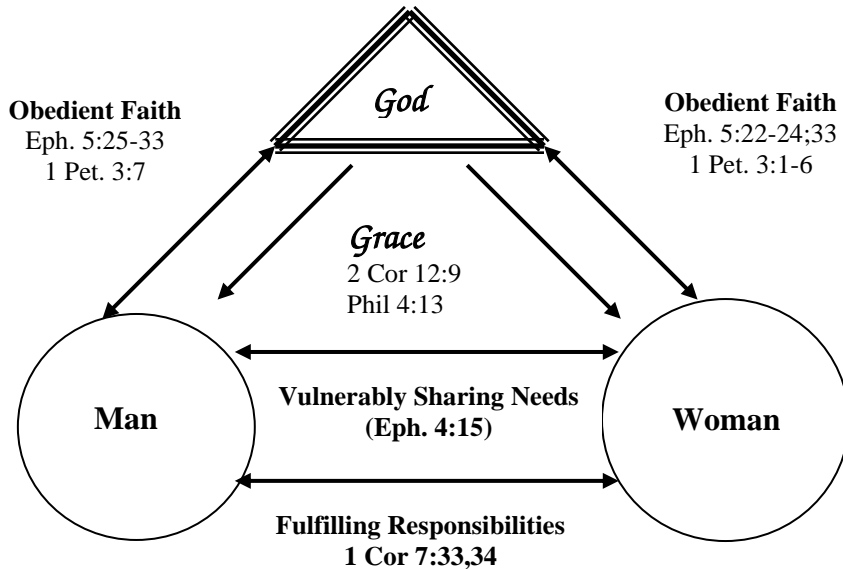
3. GOD AS THE DEFENDER (Sustainer) Eph. 5:25-30; Col. 1:16, 17 *“For by him were all things created, ... all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

Synista’ō: stand/stay together!

Only as we are rightly related to him can we be rightly related to others.

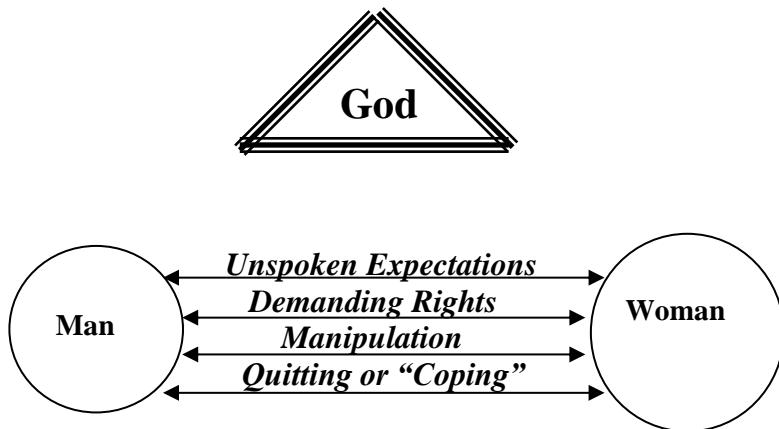
With God as the Sustainer: We’ll experience His peace and Purpose (Fulfilment)

Ps 16:11; Ps. 37: 3-5; Jn 10:10b



With God as the Spectator: We’ll know division, disappointment and Frustration!

Jn 10:10a



Which do you want?

Which will you choose?

Psalm 37:3-5 “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Isaiah 62:4-5 “Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, (pleasure, delight) and thy land Beulah” (Married)