

Relational Renovation: Beauty from Brokenness. *Is. 61:1-3; Eph. 5:21-33*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @CBC Sunday, March 1st

Pt. 1: God's Blueprint Genesis 2:7,15-24; Mt 19:1-5

When you buy anything of value, you get an instruction manual from the manufacturer. Many warn that if you don't follow the manual, you will void any warranty. It should come as no surprise that life, and in particular marriage, comes with a manual from the manufacturer. Ps. 127:1 warns us that failure to comply with the instructions will void the warrantee. In Mt 19:4-6 Jesus clarified God's design for marriage. *"He which made them at the beginning made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."*

Jesus refers us to God's original blueprint which reveals:

1. The Dilemma (Problem) of Man. Gen 2:18 *"It is not good that the man should be alone; "* God used "good" 10x in Gen 1,2 to describe his creation. "Very good" in 1:31

A. Adam Had What Most Think Is Enough:

- 1) POWER: He was in charge of the world, crowned with glory and honour. (Ps. 8:6)
- 2) POSSESSIONS: He had it all!
- 3) PROSPERITY: Perfect health and long life.

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.

C. 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 is both irrational and unbiblical!

D. The Dangers Of This Delema. (We tend to extremes)

- 1) Self-Sufficiency: Either we deny our needs or Determine to meet them ourselves.
- 2) Self-Centeredness: We deify our needs, leading to manipulation or narcissism.
- 3) Self-Condemnation: We diminish ourselves for having needs, leading to isolation and rejection of God's design. (Ro 12:3)

2. The Decision (Provision) Of God. *"I will make him an help meet for him."* Gen. 2:18

A. God Took The Initiative.

- 1) Adam wasn't qualified to provide his own "Help Meet"

B. God Knew What He Needed For true Fulfilment *"a help meet for him"*

- 1) *"Help meet"* has two dimensions:
 - a) 'ēzer meaning to aid or help. To complete, not compete!
 - b) 'ēzer comes from 'āzar' meaning to: (1) Surround; Aid, and Protect; (2) A "variant" (counterpart).
- 2) *"for him"* neh'-ghed; opposite; a counterpart, or mate. (She was "different" from Adam.)
Not independent, but interdependent. 1 Cor 11:8-12

3. The Design (Plan) Of God

A. God Established Relationships To Meet Our Intimacy Needs. Gen. 2:18

- 1) Marriage: (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5) *(Eccl 4:12) "and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*
- 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;..."*
There are over **40** "one another commandments" directed to the church. (See John 13:34,35)
- 4) Good and Godly Friends: Pr 17:17 ; Pr 27:5,6

4. The Device (Program) of Satan (Gen. 3:1-5; Jn 10:10a| 2 Cor 2:11)

A. Satan Attacked The First Marriage

- 1) Separation. Gen. 3:1-4
- 2) Deception 5 "Ye shall be as gods..."
- 3) Temptation vs 6
- 4) Isolation (Hiding from God) Vs 8
- 5) Accusation: Blaming each other. 12-13

B. SATAN ATTACKED THE FIRST FAMILY in Gen. 4

- 1) Sibling Rivalry led to Jealousy, which led to Tragedy.

C. SATAN ATTACKED THE FIRST CHURCH in Acts 4,5; Mt 16:18 *"I will build my church, (ekklēsi'a: a called people) See 1 Pt 2:9 and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."*

- 1) Satan has multiple tools with which he attacks God's people. (2 Cor 2:11)
 - a) In the early church he used persecution, infiltration, Deception, and Division.

**Conclusion: *Mankind has a Problem, Satan has a Program,
But God has made Plan! (Col. 1:13,14)***

- A plan of Redemption Jn 10:11 *"the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."*
- And a plan for Renovation! Jn 10:10b *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (Ro. 12:1,2; Eph. 5:15-33)

Application

Whose plan will you partner with?

Jn 10:27-28 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

Most have been building their lives and loves on the wrong foundation (Mt 7:24-27) and with the wrong blueprints (Mt 7:13,14); and are sadly experiencing the relational "destruction" Jesus warned about.

***Will you join me on the journey to get back to God's blueprints
for relational Renovation?***