

The Biblical Worldview of Marriage

The Fall of Marriage
Luke 7:18-8:3; Genesis 2:25-3:24

INTRODUCTION

1. Creation: *Where did we come from, and who are we?* This is addressed in Gen.1-2
2. Fall: *What has gone wrong with the world?* This is addressed in Genesis 3.
3. Redemption: *What can be done to fix the world?* The answer to this begins in Genesis 3:15 and is developed throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

I. "I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP!"

- A. The book of Genesis, and the rest of the Old Testament are about getting up from the Fall.
- B. The consequences of the Fall are portrayed in their real colors: shame, guilt, embarrassment, and the devastating effects of turning one's back on God.
- C. Some of the stories of Genesis and other parts of the OT are so disturbing that at certain times parts of the Scripture were off limits for public and private reading.
- D. The pain and hurt of marriage has become so commonplace that we have become numb to it.

II. THE FALL AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR MARRIAGE AND INTIMACY ARE WELL DOCUMENTED THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

- A. Monogamy, polygamy, concubinage (Gen.2:22-24; 4:19,23 [Lamech's two wives]; 16:2-4; 22:24; 25:6; 29:21-30; 30:1-24; 35:22; 36:2,3,12)
- B. Homosexuality (Genesis 18:20-19:29)
- C. Prostitution (Gen.38:14-30)
- D. Intimacy (Gen.2:25 [nakedness]; Gen.34:1-2 [rape]; 37:6-18 [adultery])
- E. Nakedness (Gen.2:25; 9:20-23)
- F. Protection (Gen.12:11-20 with 3:13 [Pharaoh]; 20:1-18 [Abimelech]; 26:6-11 with 3:13 [Abimelech])
- G. *Inceast* (Gen.19:30-38 with Gen.3:24; 13:11-13; cf. Num.6:24-26; Ezek.8:16,17)
 1. The sin of mankind should be understood in the eastward direction that God drove Adam and Eve after their original sin (Gen.3:24).
 2. The Bible does not try to downplay the seriousness of Adam and Eve's rebellion against God in the Garden. The wages of sin is death (Romans 3:23).
 3. Movement toward the east in Genesis consistently appears in the context of rebellion and sin.
 - a. After Cain murdered Abel, Gen.4:16 says, "Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden."
 - b. The story of the Tower of Babel begins with the comment that the whole earth "journeyed east" (Gen.11:2).
 - c. The tabernacle and temple were faced west.

- i. In order to stand and receive God’s blessing in worship, a person had to be facing west; toward the altar, toward the Most Holy Place, and toward the Ark of the Covenant (Num.6:24-26).
- ii. When people turned their back on the temple, and God’s Ark of the Covenant which contained the Ten Commandments, they essentially turned their back on the source of all grace, blessing, and redemption (Ezek.8:16,17).
- d. “Lot journeyed eastward” (Gen.13:11-13)
- e. Whenever people turn their back on the westward direction of God’s blessing they experience the consequences of the curse.

H. Childbearing (Gen.3:16; 16:1; 25:21; 29:31-30:24; 35:18,19 [Rachel’s death]; 38:1-30)

I. Childrearing (Gen.4:7,8; 21:9-14; 25:22-34; 27:1-46; 37:11,18-36)

J. Marriage in the Lord (Gen.6:1,2; 18:19; 24:1-4,26,27; 26:34,35; 28:1,2,8,9; cf. Exod. 34:16, Deut. 7:3-4, 1 Kings 11:4, Neh. 13:25-27, Mal. 2:11-12, 1 Cor.7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14; WCF 24:3)

1. Abraham made his servant swear to the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth that he would not get a wife from the Canaanites (Gen.24:1-4; cf. 9:25).
2. Abraham sent his servant some 450 miles to find a wife for Isaac.
3. Isaac gave clear direction to Jacob not to marry a Canaanite (Gen.28:1,2).
4. Esau brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah by marrying Hittite women (Gen.26:34,35).
5. “The sons of God *saw* that the daughters of men were beautiful” (Gen.6:1,2 with Gen.3:6).

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CURSE ON THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP ARE VERY DEPRESSING. WHAT MAKES THIS LIST ALL THE MORE DEPRESSING IS THAT MOST OF THE EXAMPLES OF THE FALL’S AFFECT ON MARRIAGE ARE TAKEN FROM THE CHOSEN FAMILY!

- A. The book of Genesis doesn’t present a bleak picture of marriage so that you can feel better about your own when you compare it with Abraham’s. The book of Genesis is not a book about “sola bootstraps.” It is an unbiblical doctrine to believe all you need to do to redeem yourself, your marriage and your family is pick yourself up by your own bootstraps.
- B. The book of Genesis is a book that describes how a person can get up after the Fall. The only way that a person can enter back into the Garden, the only way that a person can find redemption is by the grace of God (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**).
- C. The Good News of the Gospel is that *the* Seed of the Woman, Jesus, is a friend of sinners, prostitutes, and the sexually immoral (Luke 7:34-8:3)!

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

Why does Genesis document so candidly the consequences of the Fall?

If you lived in the Old Testament and were given the option of travelling east or west, which direction would you choose and why? Which direction did Lot choose?

How did the Fall affect finding suitable spouses for marriage?

Are you praying now for your young children and for godly spouses for them? Are you teaching your children the importance of marrying in the Lord?

Do your children know that you will be grieved if they do not marry in the Lord?

The book of Genesis is a book that describes how a person can get up after the _____.

ILLUSTRATIONS

In 1796, Beilby Porteus, bishop of London, made an index to the Bible so that reader would read the good parts and not read the bad parts. Nearly half of the Bible was censored by Proteus' list.

Citation: Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*.

In America, shortly after the Revolution, Mrs. Sarah Kirby Tremmer, in the hope of protecting her children and others from some of the Bible stories, deleted or obscured indecent expressions and was left with about half a Bible.

Citation: Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*.