

THE REDEMPTION OF MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:21-33; Genesis 2:18-25

INTRODUCTION: CREATION, FALL, AND REDEMPTION

Alice speaking to the Cheshire-Cat: “Would you please tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

Cheshire-Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

Alice: I don't much care where --”

Cheshire-Cat: Then it doesn't matter which way you go.

Alice: --so long as I get *somewhere*.

Cheshire-Cat: Oh, you're sure to do that, if you only walk long enough.

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, “Pig and Pepper” [Chicago: Contemporary Books: 1988] 59

I. CREATION DECLARES THE GLORY OF GOD

- A. One thing that many atheists and theologians agree about is the splendor of creation.
- B. The most glorious thing of creation is _____.
- C. _____ is the culmination of God's glory in creation, and _____ is the crowning touch.
- D. Adam could not glorify God in the work of dominion single. Eve enhanced Adam's ability to glorify God and likewise Adam was to complement Eve's imitation of God.
- E. Marriage serves “to enhance the glory of one's spouse” (Allender, Longman, *Intimate Allies* 22).

II. HOW THE WIFE IS TO ENHANCE THE GLORY OF HER HUSBAND (Ephesians 5:21-33)

- A. Wives are to reflect the relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride by being subject to their own husbands (Eph.5:22,24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-2; cf. 1 Cor.14:34).
- B. Jesus Christ is glorified when the church submits to Him and likewise, the husband “is glorified” when the wife submits to her husband as to the Lord.
- C. The question isn't whether or not your *husband is worthy* but whether you truly believe *Jesus is worthy* of your submission in marriage.
- D. A person's worth is not related to their role (Ruth 3:11; Prov.12:4; 19:14; **31:10**; Rom.8:29-30; 2 Cor.3:18; cf. John 14:28)!
- E. A wife who is unsubmitive to her husband is a woman who is unsubmitive to Jesus Christ. Submission to your husband is commanded by Jesus and submission to your husband is your *primary* obligation to your husband in marriage (**Colossians 3:18**; cf. 1 Cor.14:34; **Eph.5:22,24**).
- F. Wives are to be subject to their husbands *in everything* (**Eph.5:24**; cf. Ex.1:15-22; Dan.3:16-18; 6; Acts 4:19,20; 5:1-10,29).
- G. The wife's subjection to her husband in everything, excluding sin, is God's will (Eph.5:17).

III. HOW THE HUSBAND IS TO ENHANCE THE GLORY OF HIS WIFE (Ephesians 5:21-33)

- A. The husbands' primary obligation in marriage is to love his wife just as Christ also loved the church (**Eph.5:25**).
- B. The husband's headship is real authority, but is not an authority to abuse, or demean. The husband's authority is an authority to serve, love, cherish, nurture, and protect (cf. 1 Pet.3:7).
- C. Husband's are to look at themselves as the servant of their wife (Mt.20:25-28).

IV. WHERE DOES SINGLENESSE FIT INTO THIS?

- A. Before the Fall, a man or a woman was incomplete without a spouse. The only thing that was not good in all of God's creation was man's being alone (2:18). The man could not carry out the work of dominion without a helper suitable to him.
- B. After the Fall, *rest* from the Fall and its consequences was linked with the Promised Land, the birth of children and genealogies. All of these anticipated the coming of the seed of the woman Who would crush the head of the serpent.
- C. In the New Covenant, rest is no longer connected to physical land, the birth of children, or genealogies, but to the finished work of Jesus.
- D. In this present age in which we live, there is a place for singleness that there had not been before the Fall. In fact, singleness, in certain circumstances, may be advantageous with respect to Kingdom Work in this present age (Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Cor.7:7-9; 32-38).
- E. At the consummation of all things, we will be like the angels, neither marrying nor giving in marriage (Matthew 22:30).

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).

A third purpose of marriage is to enhance the _____ of your spouse.

How are wives to reflect the relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride, the church?

Wives, do you submit to your husbands as the church submits to Christ?

The husbands' primary obligation in marriage is to _____ their wives just as Christ also _____ the church.

Husbands, do you love your wife just as Christ loved the church? When was the last time you have repented of this and asked God's and your wife's forgiveness?

Does it scare you that creation so beautifully declares God's glory? Do you believe the Bible when it says that mankind is the most glorious aspect of creation? Do you view your spouse in Christ as the pinnacle of creation?

Where does singleness fit into Creation, Fall, and Redemption?

The question that unmarried people have to answer in this present age is whether or not you can serve God more effectively _____ or _____.

ILLUSTRATION

German composer Felix Mendelssohn's grandfather, Moses Mendelssohn, was not a handsome man. In addition to his short stature, he also had a hunched back. Moses Mendelssohn met a young lady and fell madly in love with her, but the young lady was repulsed by Moses Mendelssohn's appearance.

Finally getting the courage to talk to her, Moses asked, "Do you believe marriages are made in heaven?"

The young lady said, "Yes."

Moses then said, "In heaven at the birth of each boy, the Lord announces which girl he will marry. When I was born, my future bride was pointed out to me. Then the Lord said, 'But your wife will be humpbacked.' Right then and there I called out, 'Oh Lord, a humpbacked woman would be a tragedy. Please, Lord, give me the hump and let her be beautiful.'" ... The young lady reached out and gave Mendelssohn her hand, and later became his devoted wife

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