

Marriage . . .the End and the Beginning

Lecture 3

Man is staring in shock at the near-collapse of all his systems. They have not worked to create for him his hoped-for utopia. He is a problem to himself. He can achieve in one area so marvelously as to predict with hairbreadth precision the location of the heavenly bodies for centuries to come, but cannot control his own generation. We are witnesses to the obvious failure of man's systems.

The educational system is not producing the desired ends.
The economic system seems to be on the verge of tottering from top-heaviness.
The political system has not only lost the respect of the majority of the people.
Disillusionment abounds. Panic fills the atmosphere.

I. The Divine Design

Why did God create a mankind He knew would fail? The answer is not as simple as some theologians have wanted to make it. The reasons for creation are locked away in the heart of God to one day be revealed to His family.

A. God desired to extend divine life. "Let us make man in our image" was the declaration of Elohim. (The divine trinity is suggested by the use of the name Elohim, Gen. 1:26a.)

God prepared creation for its crowning deposit—man. That man would bear family likeness to the godhead. He would be a picture of the trinity (body, soul, spirit). He would be an extension of the life of God.

His very actions and nature would be a revelation of the nature of his Creator.

Paul declared in Romans 1:19, "Because that which may be known of God was manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." It was through man and his offspring that the character of Holy God was to be revealed. That is the purpose of redeemed man today.

B. God desired to exhibit his dominion.

God said, "Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26b).

Man was created to reign, but only under the dominion of God.

As long as man would remain under him who was over him, all that was under God (which was everything) would also be under man.

C. The Biblical Narrative

In the first creation narrative in Genesis 1 we are told, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." We are then told, ". **male and female** created he them."

Some of the most vital truth for the family is found on the ground around this verse
In **Genesis 1:27**

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

God didn't ever have the intention that man be alone.

There is a sense in which he was created complete with the woman who would later be taken from man in order to be given to man. God created man in his own image. The whole man is comprised of the male and the female.

Not one alone, but both together were made to reign and continue in dominion over God's creation.

To have a Biblical based home, the husband must be a natural^x born man, and the woman should be a naturally born woman. God let us be born the way he wanted us to be in a sexual identity sense.

II. The Creation of the Family

Several times in the first chapter of Genesis at various stages of creation the word "good" is used to describe the picture to the eyes of God. "And God saw that it was good" LOOK IN GENESIS 2:(vv.4,10,12,18,21,25).

Then in **verse 18** of chapter 2 when man was still alone, we are confronted with the first "not good" of the Bible.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone."

Then in the description of the earlier account of the creation with Adam and Eve cooperating together in Genesis 1:31 we observe, "And God saw everything that he has made and, behold, it was very good."

As a result there was born the first and only institution which predates the fall of man, the home.

WHAT IS THE DESIGN OF THE HOME?

It was designed to carry out the purposes of God

To:

extend his life,

express his character,

exclaim his dominion.

It was to be God's most effective tool against the devil right in his own territory. It is to be a kingdom of right within a kingdom of wrong, a kingdom of light within a kingdom of darkness.

God told Adam of the trees of the garden. Among them was the tree of life in the midst of the garden and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam was to have freedom to eat of every tree including the tree of life except the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Man was to live by divine revelation, not human knowledge.

It was immediately after this warning. that God brought all the animals to Adam to be named. God had doubtlessly informed Adam that he was going to make a helpmeet for him.

(She was to be not just a mate, but a helpmate fitted for Adam, intellectually, morally, spiritually, and physically.)

Surely Adam went to work with eager anticipation naming the animals, watching with intense interest for his "helpmeet." *"But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him"* (Gen. 2:20).

In order to get man completed and prepared for the coming of his helpmeet, God administered the first anesthesia and performed the first major surgery.

God took from Adam's side rib. It was fashioned by God's own skill, the woman. He then brought her to Adam. Adam then held a special THANKSGIVING service in which he declared his formal reception of the woman.

Genesis 2:23

III. The Commands for the Family

The blessing of God upon his creation obviously included the capacity to reproduce after its kind.

The first instance of blessing is recorded in Genesis 1:22 and is followed immediately by the command, *"Be fruitful and multiply."*

In Genesis 1:24 after the second instance of blessing is recorded there is a fivefold command:

1-Be fruitful

2-multiply

- 3-replenish the earth,
- 4-subdue it,
- 5-continue to have dominion over it.

This was God's master strategy for the continuous victory of good over evil and the home was to be the secret weapon!

Adam had some concept of the purpose of woman and of future generations when he said, "*Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*"(v. 24).

Man and wife were to exist as one flesh. They were to live decide, worship, and serve as one flesh. Woman was taken from man, give to man, in order to complete man.

A classic statement is important from C. H. Spurgeon: "Woman was not taken out of man's head to be lorded over by him, or from his feet to be trampled on by him, but from his side to be equal with him, from under his arm to be protected by him, and from near his heart to be loved by him."

IV. Chaos in the Family

Wherever there is trouble, there is breakdown in authority. It was true with the first SIN and will be true with the last one.

1- Mistake #1-First she was isolated from her husband. He was her protection. She was his completion. The devil knew that if he could get to her, he could eventually get to man.

2- Mistake #2- She communicated with the devil when she should have spoken to her husband. After all Adam was the one who had heard the original command regarding the forbidden tree.

3- Mistake #3

She turned from revelation to reason.

She had jumped the track of divine revelation and was running headlong down the path of human reason.

4- Mistake #4 She made a decision entirely independent from her husband. Their dominion was to be together.

The devil could not deal with both of them together. They were more than his equal! as they lived in the will of God.

But the power unit of the first family was weakened by independence and individuality. Eve sinned and Adam Followed.

1 Tim. 2:4

V. Condemnation upon the World

With chaos in the family there were multiple judgments on the world. Man and woman were banished from the utopia set up for God's creation.

They were thrown into a world in rebellion.

She was to submit to her husband's desires. He was to rule over her.

But with all that happened in the fall of man, there is no hint that God would abandon the family!

VI. Consummate Hope of Civilization

There was nothing wrong with God's plan. It was right from the start. It was man and not the plan that failed. Since that be true, there is no reason to abandon the plan.

VIII. Closing Challenge

I need to remind you that we are talking about your home and my home. We must be willing to take decisive action on your part to have the home we ought to possess.

Conclusion:

May we take our homes seriously and do all we can do through the direction and help of the Lord, to make our homes everything they ought to be and can be.

The beauty of the house is order;

The blessing of the house is contentment;

The glory of the house is hospitality;

The crown of the house is godliness.

Fireplace motto