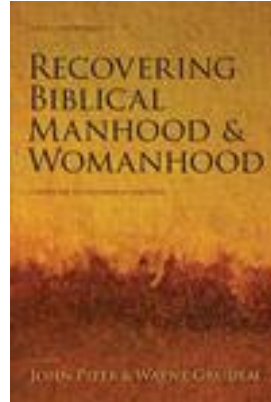
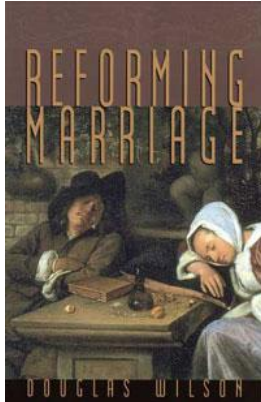


Marriage -- A Model Covenant - Part I

Gen. 2:18-25



What is the purpose of marriage in our world? What is God's purpose for marriage?

- Is it an end in itself?
 - Was marriage created primarily for our happiness?
 - We as Christians ought to be pursuing excellence in our marriage rightly, with a proper understanding of the purpose and meaning of the marriage covenant.
1. The creation of a covenant; **Gen 2:18-25**
 1. Before the fall
 2. Adam and Eve are the original paradigm for all marriages.
 2. The creation of marriage
 1. Why is it not good for man to be alone?
 2. Why does God parade the animals before Adam?
 3. Why does Adam have to name the animals?
 3. a "helpmeet" - the crown of man
 1. Adam recognizes that this is his counterpart. In every way his spiritual equal and the one which complements his weaknesses.
 2. Adam names Eve. **Gen. 3:20**

Raymond C. Ortlund Jr. on male headship (not male domination);

"In the partnership of two spiritually equal human beings, man and woman, the man bears the primary responsibility to lead the partnership in a God-glorifying direction."

4. Why does a woman take her husband's name? **Gen. 5:1**
5. From Adam's side...

2. Naked and not ashamed – **Gen. 2:25**

- Merely physical nakedness or more??
- Men and emotional vulnerability. - **Prov. 31:10-11**
- The responsibility is always with Adam.
- To keep secrets within that relationship is to break covenant. To reveal too much outside that designated covenant is also to break covenant.
- Where does shame come from?

3. The Curse; Sin's effect on marriage

- This is where the punishment for sin enters the marriage relationship. **Gen 3:16, Gen 4:7**

“If man had not sinned, he would always have ruled with wisdom and love; and, if the woman had not sinned, she would always have obeyed with humility and meekness; and then the dominion would have been no grievance: but our own sin and folly make our yoke heavy.”

Henry, Matthew: *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody : Hendrickson, 1996, c1991, S. Ge 3:16

- This is a picture of what a sinful marriage looks like. The result of this in worldly marriages is that she is against her husband's rule, and he is either tyrannical in ruling over her (Gen. 3:16), or tries to abdicate his role as leader (Gen. 3:17).
- As a man, I live under the curse of sin, realizing that my punishment is God's loving means of bringing me back into right relationship with Him. I need to accept that godly discipline, and work at getting headship right (Heb. 12:10-11).
- As part of a woman's curse is this struggle with headship, she needs to accept her godly discipline and work at getting humility and meekness right. “...that she may yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (Heb. 12:10-11)