



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 4 - Day 2

### Approaching God

**Read Isaiah 55:3-5** - *"Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor."*

**Prayer:** As you read this next section of Isaiah 55, what is God inviting you into today? Listen to God's invitation into relationship with him today - "I will make a covenant with you today, one of faithfulness, and love - everlasting in nature!" What would it look like for you to respond to God's invitation into that relationship today? To give ear, to come, to listen - that you may live and offer life to others. Ask God to help you see and experience this as you meet with him today.

### Husbands & Wives - Part 2

Yesterday we learned that God designed men and women to have equal value before Him, but function differently in relationship to each other. Eve was designed to correspond to Adam in such a way that they would enjoy harmony with one another as they assumed their roles of leader and helper. Today we'll examine further the biblical basis for God's original design for marriage.

### Bible Reading & Meditation

**Genesis 2:15-24** - *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

**Genesis 3:16** - *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

**Ephesians 5:17:33** - **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **28** In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, **30** because we are members of his body. **31** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **32** This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. **33** However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

## Read: God Original Design for Marriage

Yesterday's teaching revealed that God established a pattern for all marriage relationships when He designed the first man and woman to be completely equal in their inherent value before Him, but unique in the way they function in their relationship with one another. The word that describes this equality and uniqueness is *correspondence*. That is, God purposely designed the man and woman with complementary features that would define the roles they assumed in their relationship. Broadly speaking, God designed the man and the woman to correspond to one another as leader and follower. He established this pattern to bring mutual blessing to husbands and wives and as you shall see, to illustrate the proper relationship between the Divine and the human.

Now as mentioned yesterday, the ideal of male leadership and female help/support is taught in the New Testament using the role terminology of *headship* and *submission*. But before we grapple with what these terms mean, it would be wise to go back to Genesis again to examine how God's design for marriage was corrupted by sin. Then we can turn to the New Testament to see how redemption impacts the marriage relationship. Genesis 2 tells us exactly how God intended marriage relationships to function. The narrative reveals that the solitary life of the one man was something God considered "*not good*" (2:18). So why did God create this "*not good*" situation by not creating the man and the woman at the same moment and in the same way?

It seems that He had several reasons. First, He wanted to impress the man with his need for the woman. Without her, he could never fulfill his divine commission to rule over the earth. Secondly, He demonstrated that the woman was to be a most cherished gift from God to the man. This can be seen by the fact that God presented the woman to the man to be named by him and received as a gift (2:22-23), a gift which the man received enthusiastically. And thirdly, by creating the woman after the man, from the man's own body (2:21), and presenting her to the man, God gave them both a graphic life-lesson of how they were to relate to one another. The order of their

creation showed that Adam was to lead Eve in pursuit of God's commission, and Eve was to help Adam in that pursuit. Prior to their sin, there was perfect harmony in this arrangement: Eve was exactly the helper Adam needed, and Adam was exactly the leader Eve was made to follow. Thus, the "not good" situation was addressed by the creation of the woman. With the addition of Eve, creation was now "very good" (1:30).

But, it didn't last. Just as sin had corrupted their world and their being, it also corrupted their harmony. God said to the woman, "Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" (Genesis 3:16). These words describe the distrust, inequity and power play that have plagued marriages since the fall. The woman's *desire* described here is not feminine romantic affection, but a conniving desire to control or manipulate the man. And the man's *rule* would not be the servant leadership taught by Jesus and the apostles, but an oppressive domination of the woman, often reducing her to the status of property scarcely ranking above livestock. This verse foretells, and history confirms, that God's intention of righteous male leadership would tend to devolve into sinful tyranny over women; while God's intention of righteous female partnership would devolve into a sinful craving to control men wherever an advantage can be gained.

This is a deplorable situation, and though it arises from God's just punishment for sin, He takes no pleasure in the dysfunction of marriage. In fact, He forbids both male exploitation of women (1 Peter 3:7) and female rejection of a husband's leadership within marriage (1 Peter 3:1). Nevertheless, sin-motivated marital dysfunction repeats itself throughout history in every culture. This does not mean that there are not happy exceptions where the curse seems to have less power. But no marriage is totally free from the impact of Genesis 3:16. And yet, there is one power that has the capability to restore much of the functional order and harmony God originally designed into marriage. It is the power of the gospel. In cultures where the gospel has little influence, women are often demeaned and oppressed. But wherever the gospel goes, women tend to be elevated to their proper place as men are taught to love, honor and cherish their wives as equal partners. Wherever the influence of the gospel is diminished, the exploitation and abuse of women rises.

*Today's reading was adapted from "The Journey" discipleship curriculum produced by Perimeter Church*

## Questions for Study

- Look at Genesis 2:15-24. What need did God intend to meet by creating the woman?
- How did God introduce the man and woman to one another? How did the man respond to the woman when he met her?
- Now look at Ephesians 5:17-33. How does Paul connect marital roles with spiritual life in general?
- What is the ultimate reason Paul gives for his teaching on marriage? How does this reason affect your view of his teaching?