

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

A PROSPEROUS MARRIAGE

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CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE

When Jesus created the first man, Adam was formed as a mature adult. He was placed in the garden of Eden and given the responsibility of tending and keeping it. Jesus then brought every kind of animal to Adam so he could name them, but as Adam observed the creatures, he realized that he lacked a companion.

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there as not found an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:15-20)

Jesus caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, took one of his ribs, and used it to create Eve. Adam was created as a man, and Eve was created as a woman. Like Adam, Eve was formed as a mature adult, not as a child. Therefore, neither Adam nor Eve experienced childhood.

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” (Genesis 2:21-23)

Jesus likely spent time with Adam, preparing him for the creation of a woman who would become his companion. Adam was created as a male, while Eve would be created as a female with a distinct reproductive design. Adam had seen the animals



reproduce and bring forth offspring, and in a similar way, Jesus intended for mankind to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and 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.

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

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

(Genesis 1:26-28)

The first chapter of Genesis gives an overview of the creation of the universe. The original text did not contain chapter divisions as we have them today. Those divisions were later introduced in A.D. 1227 by Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury in England.

To read the passage more naturally, Genesis 2:1-4 should be understood as the conclusion of the creation account in chapter one. The remainder of chapter two then provides a more detailed account of the creation of Adam and Eve.

INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

Jesus officiated the wedding of Adam and Eve, and since they did not have any parents, it is obvious that Jesus set forth for the future, the relationship between a married couple. Adam and Eve did not have any clothing and were not ashamed of their nakedness because sin had not yet entered their lives.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” (Genesis 2:24-25)

Some 4,000 years later, when Jesus addressed the Pharisees, He defined marriage according to God’s original design and made it clear that divorce was not part of that plan. Divorce was later permitted through Moses because of the hardness of mankind’s heart.

The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be

one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. (Matthew 19:3-9)

EARLY CUSTOM OF MARRIAGE

The earliest detailed biblical record of a man seeking a wife is found in the account of Abraham arranging marriage for his son, Isaac. From the time of Adam and Eve onward, it appears that marriages were arranged by the parents or family, rather than through dating as it is commonly practiced in the Western world today. The following passage records Abraham's concern to find a suitable wife for his son.

“And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.” (Genesis 24:1-4)

Both Isaac and Rebekah accepted the arranged marriage. When they were brought together as husband and wife, their love for one another developed within the marriage.

“And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.” (Genesis 24:67)

Marriages were commonly arranged by the parents two thousand years ago. The parents of a young boy might begin looking for a future wife for him when he was still very young, perhaps between five and ten years old. Their concern was not merely the girl herself, but the character and stability of her family. They would consider whether her father was responsible and able to provide, whether her mother was a faithful wife, whether the family had a good reputation in the community, and whether they faithfully attended the synagogue.

Once both families agreed to the marriage arrangement, a bride price was established and paid to the girl's parents. A contract was then drawn up, and the families would register the marriage agreement. The children would continue to be raised in their own homes until the boy reached manhood and was able to support his wife. At that time, the wedding would take place, and the marriage would be consummated.

A biblical example of this kind of betrothal is seen in the account of Joseph and Mary, who were pledged to one another before they came together as husband and wife.

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.” (Luke 1:26-27)

During this time, boys and girls were taught that when the day came for the marriage feast, the husband and wife would leave their families, establish their own household, and begin building a life together. The couple was expected to learn how to love one another within the marriage. Love was understood as something that would grow and mature over time; it was not something a person simply fell into by looking at someone of the opposite sex. The concept of falling in love was completely foreign to them.

DATING

During the Victorian era, from 1837 to 1901, arranged marriages were still common among royal and aristocratic families in Europe and the United States, often being shaped by political alliances, social status, and financial interests. Among the upper and middle classes, courtship was the accepted practice. A young man might visit a young lady, or invite her to visit, but such meetings usually took place under parental supervision. Working-class young people, however, often met in public places such as restaurants, bars, dances, and theaters, usually without the same level of parental oversight.

World War I and World War II had a profound effect on marriage customs. After these wars, only some upper-class families continued the older practice of formal courtship, while much of the population in Europe and the United States moved toward the modern dating system. With the rise of the internet, dating expanded even further through online services, where men and women could create profiles and be matched according to the information they provided. This practice has also gained acceptance in many Christian circles, with dating sites designed specifically for Christians. However, dating often creates opportunities for premarital sex.

Today, many young people no longer see formal marriage as necessary. Instead, some simply move in together, form households, and have children without being legally married.

WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

Within Christianity, marriage matters because it is not merely a living arrangement. It is a covenant before God. Living together may imitate parts of marriage, but it does not carry the same public vow, moral obligation, or biblical recognition.

Jesus pointed back to creation when He stated:

“...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh...” (Matthew 19:5-6a).

That statement includes leaving, cleaving, and becoming one flesh. It is not casual cohabitation; it is a binding union. Paul also connected marriage to Christ and the church, making it a spiritual picture, not just a social contract.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Outside Christianity, marriage still matters because it gives the relationship public, legal, and social clarity. A couple may feel loving and committed while living together, but marriage creates a recognized bond with defined rights and duties such as inheritance, medical decision-making, property claims, tax issues, parental rights, survivor benefits, and legal protections if the relationship ends or one spouse dies.

A major problem with “common law marriage” is that many people misunderstand it. Simply living together for a certain number of years does not automatically create a common-law marriage in most places. Such relationships are only recognized in a minority of states, and the requirements vary by state.

The issue is not just religious as marriage gives the relationship a public definition. Cohabitation often keeps the relationship private, flexible, and easier to abandon. That is exactly why many people prefer it – and that same flexibility is also its main weakness. It can leave one partner, often the more dependent one, exposed if the relationship breaks down.

From a Christian standpoint, living together without marriage also blurs the boundary God placed around sexual union. Scripture does not treat sexual intimacy as a private recreational act detached from covenant. The marriage bed is honorable because it belongs inside marriage.

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

LEGALITY

A legal marriage provides protection for both husband and wife. It safeguards the couple’s property, since one spouse cannot dispose of the home or other shared assets without the consent of the other. It also establishes a clear legal status for the children, making them recognized heirs to their parents’ estate when they pass away.

Marriage also carries a spiritual significance. God designed children to be born and raised within the covenant of marriage, and the Bible warns of the serious consequences connected to illegitimacy.

“A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.” (Deuteronomy 23:2)

A legal marriage in the United States requires eligible parties, consent, a marriage license, an authorized ceremony, and official recording of the license.

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

Although the apostle Paul was not married at the time he came to Christ, he had great insight into married life. When he wrote his epistles, the Holy Spirit gave him divine wisdom concerning how husbands and wives should treat one another within marriage.

No Division in Christ

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul made it clear that there is no division in Christ. Nationality does not determine our relationship with Jesus, nor does social status or gender. All believers stand on equal ground in Christ as redeemed souls living on earth and awaiting the promise of heaven.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:26-29)

Leadership

In every area of life on this earth, order requires leadership. A business does not function well with two chief executives competing for control. The same is true in the armed forces; each unit has one leader, not two. In any organization, when there is no clear leadership, confusion and disorder follow. In marriage, God designated Adam to be the leader of his wife.

However, leadership does not mean harshness, selfishness, or disregard. Any wise leader in business understands that if the people working with him do not trust him, the work will suffer. A good executive seeks to build respect, cooperation, and even friendship with those under his authority. The same principle applies in marriage. The husband is given the responsibility to lead, but he will fail miserably if he does not treat his wife with love, respect, and consideration. He must also be willing to listen to her counsel. A wise leader listens to sound advice, and by doing so, both he and those under his care are strengthened.

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” (1 Corinthians 11:3)

Love, Respect, & Submission

Paul laid out the proper relationship between a husband and his wife. A husband is to treat his wife in the same loving and sacrificial way that Christ treats His church. The teaching is simple:

- ❖ Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves.
- ❖ The wife is to show reverence to her husband.
- ❖ Together, both husband and wife are first to submit themselves to Christ, and then to one another within the marriage.

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Ephesians 5:21-33)

No business can prosper if the management and workers are at war with each other. In much the same way, no marriage can prosper if the husband and the wife are not walking together in agreement.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?