

Lesson #1

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

During the month of February, we will study the following four lessons on Marriage.

- **Origin of Marriage**
- **Husband's Responsibility to Wife**
- **Wife's Responsibility to Husband**
- **Resolving Marital Conflict**

INTRODUCTION:

“And He answered and said, ‘Have you not read, that He who **created** them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this **cause** a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall **cleave** to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?’ **Consequently**, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate (**covenant**).” (Matt.19:4-6)

Please note the five point homiletical outline in bold print.

Created – Marriage was the creation of God.

Cause – Marriage was divinely designed to be monogamous.

Cleave – marriage is the union of the male and female souls, spirits, and bodies.

Consequently – Marriage is the boundary for copulation.

Covenant – Marriage is divine institution (DI#2) between two people and God.

This lesson will study six aspects of the ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

1. God designed marriage with laws of divine establishment for both the husband and the wife.

The following eight NT passages are important to marriage (Gen.2:18-25; Matt.19:1-12; Eph.5:22-33; Col.3:18-19; 1 Cor.7:1-5, 33-35; 1 Tim.5:8; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Pet.3:1-9).

Note the phrases – “from the beginning” and “what God has joined together” (Matt.19:4). These two phrases teach us that the origin of Marriage was God’s creation.

The laws of divine establishment are designed to show imperfect married people when they are living harmoniously in the perfect institution of marriage. [The next two lessons will study these laws.]

2. Genesis 2:18-25 teaches five divine principles regarding God creating marriage as divine institution (DI#2).

Single solitude before marriage – “it is not good for the man to be alone.” Being alone is a normal healthy part of single life. Stay away from any port in the storm. One port for a storm is the Lord.

Suitable mate for marriage – “I will make him a helper suitable.” God designed your mate to be a corresponding counterpart for your soul, spirit, and body.

Selection of mating for marriage – “He brought her to the man.” God is the matchmaker (Prov.18:22; 2 Cor.6:14-18). Therefore it is important to let God be your dating and courtship chaperon.

Soul mates in marriage – “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.” She is the ishah (woman) of the ish (man). They are divinely designed to become one in soul, spirit, and body.

Stages of development of marriage – “For this cause a man *shall leave* his father and mother, and *shall cleave* to his wife; and they *shall become one flesh*.” There are three stages of development of marriage: leave, cleave, and weave into oneness. This development is the responsibility of each mate of marriage (SHALL).

3. God designed the husband to hold the position of authority (Eph.5:23; Col.2:10; 3:18).

“But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and man is the head of a woman (wife), and God is the head of Christ.” (1 Cor.11:3)

“Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of angels.” (1 Cor.11:10)

“Thus as Christ is in authority over man and therefore is to be honored by man, so the husband is in a position of authority and is therefore to be honored by his wife.” (NIV, 1 Cor.11:3)

Therefore the husband holds 100% of the responsibility of the authority of marriage before the Lord. The wife is protected by the divinely delegated chain of command of authority (God, Lord, husband, and wife) (1 Cor.11:3; 1 Pet.3:1-7; Gen.12 and 22).

4. After the first wedding ceremony (Adam and Eve), they both received a name change and not just the woman.

“And the man (Adam) said, ‘this is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman (ishah) because she was taken out of man (ish).’” (Gen.2:23)

A change of Hebrew names meant role changes in the plan of God. Peter interpreted its meaning as two believers becoming joint-heirs of the grace of life.

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her *honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life*, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Pet.3:7)

5. Marriage is a perfect institution made-up of imperfect people.

“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Matt.19:6) Marriage is a divine institution for humans not vice versa.

The subject of Matt.19:1-12 reflects the imperfect side of marriage as a divine institution because it deals with divorce.

Perfect insinuates not needing change while imperfect insinuates needing change. The marriage is perfect but the married people are imperfect. Therefore it is the married people who need changing. They need to learn how to be married the way God designed it.

As married people, we must understand that only God has the power to change imperfect people to live perfectly or completely the way designed (Col.1:28; Rom.12:2).

6. The trouble in marriage is due to the individuals and not the institution. Some believe that marriage is the way to ruin a good relationship. The only thing that marriage changes is one's singleness.

Human imperfections naturally come out by living in the perfect institution of marriage. Therefore we need God's grace operating assets (Gal.5:16; 2 Cor.5:7).

Troubled marriages will not improve unless both mates commit to the importance of changing together in order to improve their marital relationship.

Remember that even as perfect individuals, Adam and Eve didn't have a marriage without trouble because of cosmos diabolicus (evil thinking promoted by the Devil).

It will not improve by blaming self or mate or giving-up or putting up or making do or doing nothing. These statements identify the struggle but not the solution. In marriage, you work to refine the relationship not reform the mate. This is the meaning of for better or for worse.

“Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.” (Eccl.9:9)

A mate's desire to change will come from a sense of feeling accepted and loved by the other mate.

“Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respects her husband.” (Eph.5:33)