

GOD'S GIFT OF MARRIAGE

Paul opened our lesson text with a warning of the danger of “falling away from the faith.” He focused upon two doctrines under attack: Marriage and Meals.

We will begin by examining a three-point homiletic outline of the lesson text related to our lessons.

- (1 Tim.4:1-2) **Satanic Source**
 - Deceitful spirits, doctrines of demons, and teacher with seared conscience.
- 4(1 Tim.4:3) **Spiritual conflict**
 - Marriage and Meals
- (1 Tim.4:4-5) **Scriptural solution**
 - “Everything created by God is **good (kalos)**.”
 - “For we have regard for what is **honorable (kalos)**, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” (1 Thess.5:21)

<p>We will study four aspects of the spiritual conflict against God's Gift of Marriage.</p>
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In the following lesson, we will study three aspects of spiritual conflict against **God's Gift of Meals**.

1. **Marriage in the USA has been under assault my entire pastoral ministry. To answer why, we need to review the outline of our lesson text.**

In the early years of my ministry, it was divorce and desertion. We had adequate teachings on these subjects related to marriage in the Books of Corinthians and Romans.

Then I discovered that marriage was under the same assault in the early church:

(1 Cor.5:1-2) “It is actually reported that is immorality (porneia) among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. And you have become arrogant, and have **not mourned instead**, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst.” (1 Cor.5:9-13)

I also discovered from Genesis that marriage was under assault in the Garden of Eden, even before the fall of Adam (Gen.3:1-7).

2. **Paul made three points about marriage in 1 Tim.4:4.**

“For everything created by God is good (kalos) [honorable in how we deal with it], and nothing to be rejected being received with gratitude (meta+gen. of association of eucharistia) [Grace Orientation).”

- Everything created by God is _____.
- Nothing to be _____.
- Received with _____.

Marriage was created by God for mankind (Gen.2:18-25)

3. It is interesting why and how God created marriage for mankind.

(Gen.2:18) “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good (kalos/ LXX) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”

God made the helper suitable (wife) differently than the man (husband)

- (Gen.2:7) body of ground and the soul [male] (Gen.1:27).
- God made her differently in soul [female] (Gen.1:27) and body (child bearing) (Gen.1: 28; 2:21-23, 3:16) (Gen.4:1 and 1 Cor.11:8).

“Now the Lord God called his wife’s name, Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.” (Gen.3:20)

4. When the creation of the man and woman was completed, the Lord married them (Gen.2:24-25; Matt.19:4-6).

(Gen.2:22) “The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man (God’s Grace Gift).” **God the Father gave the bride to the groom.**

God’s Gift of Marriage:

(Prov.18:22) “He who finds a wife finds a **good thing** (agathos) [Good directly from God] and obtains **favor (grace)** from the Lord.”

What is often lost in discussion in biblical topics like marriage is the importance of **DIVINE VOCABULARY**.

The **divine vocabulary** found in Genesis 1:1-2:3 is still used in the 21st century through-out the world in all languages.

God, earth, heavens, light, darkness, water, evening, morning, trees, birds, fish, stars, moon, sun, days of the week, man, woman, male, and female, and marriage.

Marriage was designed to be compatible between two believers as well as between two unbelievers (1 Cor.7:39; 9:5).

(1 Cor.7:39) “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, **she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.**”

Marriage was not designed to be compatible between an unbeliever and a believer (2 Cor.6:14-16).

- For this biblical reason a believer must never chose to marriage an unbeliever.
- However, Paul discussed about a partner getting saved while married in (1 Cor.7:12-16) and a partner who becomes a reversionistic [having fell away from the faith] believer (1 Pet.3:1-2).