

Chapter One

The Origin of the Family

(Genesis 2:18, 21-24)

And the LORD God said it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

God instituted the family with male and female. When God created male, He saw that it was not good for man to be alone. So He created woman. God took a rib from Adam and formed woman. After Adam had awakened, he recognized woman as bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, because she was part of him. Because woman was taken from man, it united them as one spiritually and physically. Therefore, when a man and woman unite in marriage, they should cleave to one another. Before the fall of man, man and woman were in a perfect state. Therefore, they were equal. The dominance of the male did not come into being until after Adam bit of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Satan in his craftiness came unto the woman and tempted her with the fruit and the Word of God. The serpent took the Word of God and made it to appear not to be what God intended it to be. The woman, Adam, and the serpent knew what God had said. But Satan takes the Word of God and uses it for a natural or carnal application. At the moment of temptation, Adam trusted his wife more than he trusted in God (**Genesis 3:1-6**). As we can see Satan has been attacking the family from the very beginning.

We are all pretty much familiar with the punishment of Adam for disobeying God, but the woman's punishment was labor at childbirth, and also she had to surrender her desire to her husband. Therefore, the husband became the dominant figure.

(Genesis 3:16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

God has set the order how the household should be and in the manner in which it should be conducted. This is where most of our problems come as being independent. Independence has to be used wisely.

(1Corinthians 11:3), "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. "

So how do we apply the Word of God to be productive in our lives? The scriptures must be understood in a spiritual nature and not a carnal mind. As in the Corinthians church, God spoke through the apostle Paul to a Christian church. This divine order of God assigns responsibility, care and accountability. God is the head of Christ; Christ is the head of the household. The husband is under Christ and the wife is under the husband and the children under both parents.

God's Teamwork Concept

The woman was created to be a help to the man. The concept of God for the family is teamwork: the male and female working together to accomplish a common goal. In coming together, the spouses would have mutual respect and esteem for one another, thus cleaving to one another and becoming one flesh. Jesus said, ***"What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."*** ***(Matthew 19:6)*** Many times the oneness of a marriage is underestimated. Through observations and statistics, there are many who allow friends, in-laws, character assassinations, each other etc, to sever marriage.

Beware of those who supposedly are super spiritual. Often they will use their own ideas rather than the Word of God as it pertains to marriage. Be careful with whom you share your business. Some use the Word of God to manipulate the true meaning thereof. One main statement that is often used out of context is; "You are in bondage." They make these kinds of statements based upon their own experience and marriage that has not worked for them. And Satan uses these and other tactics to undo what is honorable in the eyes of God.

(Matthew 19:5, 6 RSV) Jesus said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man put asunder.

The responses would be generated from knowing that God has given you each other. Some men and women go into a marriage still cleaved to their mother and father. The parents of the two should cut that umbilical cord from their children and allow them to go on with their lives. Good parents will not interfere with their children's lives. They may offer wisdom in dealing with a situation, but not to meddle in it. So, if one decides to run back home, a good parent will send them right back and if necessary, be a mediator between the two.

A good parent will not allow the child to be abused, but at the same time will not advise them to leave or even cover up their wrong doing for them. If there is someone or something that is trying to sever the marriage, the bottom line is, "Do the two desire to stay together and make it work?" If one or the other desires not to be there and decides to get out of it, then it will not work.

Society Stereotypes

So this raises a question, Are we with or have been with the one who God has or had given to us, or are we with the one who we desire to be with? Who we may desire to be with, may not be the one God desires for us to be with. With both the male and female, we become desirous to marry, but we become lonely, anxious, and marry for looks, conveniences, and for security.

Some women base their views of their mates from the stereotypes that society has impressed upon their minds, for example, the tall dark and handsome type, or the one who shows the most kindness. Those areas of observations are often very deceptive. Most men go by the looks and the impressive appearance of a woman, which also is very deceptive. Everything that looks good to you is not good for you. The male and female often put on a social mask when encountering the opposite sex, but before long the mask will be removed once the person receives what he or she wants. They will do what it takes to get you, but once they have you, then that mask comes off. In a lot of cases, the mask tends to come off on occasions, but what we do is that we justify that action for the moment.

Often a person's behavior is projected in our presence. Some women have the idea, "I can change him," or some men look for justification about why she acts that way. **2 Corinthians 6:14**, talks about being unequally yoked with the unbeliever. How can this be applied to two believers? Two saved people can be unequally yoked. They would not have anything in common, no compatibility, and be on different spiritual levels. Three things make the believer equally yoked, love, fear of God, and compatibility. There is a saying, "opposites attract." That saying is taken out of context. Opposite does not mean that one stays home, and the other is out partying. Opposites attract refers to behavior: one is dominant and the other is submissive, but their ideas are compatible. When these bases for a mate are missed and overlooked, then the male and female get hurt, and their hearts are scarred. Thus the scarred heart causes one

to put up guards that may never come down; it would take God to mend their hearts.

Jesus said, ***(Luke 4:18) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted...*** Marriage is sacred and honorable before God. Therefore, it takes much prayer to be with whom God desires for us to be with. So, when trials and tribulations come, the couple will be able to stand, because God has put them together.

(Philippians 4:6) Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

In our request, we should seek the will of God. And when we find out His will and even before then, we should render to Him thanksgiving. Often the person who we desire is not the person who God desires for us. When God brings two people together, it is often a growing process that one will learn and love each other. Just because a person is in a church, doesn't mean that person is fit for you. The main characteristic is that the person is a God fearing Christian believer. I state "God fearing because everyone in the church is not a God fearing believer. So many times we allow self-lust and desire to get in the way of whom God really has for us. True enough looks will play a role but not the sole reason for the oneness of God.

We tend to base marriage and the role of the spouse on the stereotypes of society. We come to the conclusion that this person is the one because of the generosity of the other, and how the other looks and how one makes the other feel. If the husband or wife builds a foundation off of a feeling fallacy, then that marriage is on shaky grounds. The man and the woman have to be honest with each other no matter what the circumstances are and grow to be more open with each other. As with this and other aspects of the marriage, it is to be done to the glory of God.

(1Corinthians 10:31) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

The Oneness of God

God ordained marriage. His will is that the husband and wife would love each other with all faithfulness. Husbands should be faithful to their wives, and the wives should be faithful to their husbands. When God joins two people in marriage, there is an oneness, and when that oneness is broken, the other will know about it. Often when one spouse breaks the oneness, the other looks for some kind of fulfillment. Sometimes, it is a psychological or a physical need that is desired. Once a couple learns to be open psychologically and physically, and then there will be less extramarital affairs. In many cases, only the psychological or the physical need is met. The male and female have a need to feel wanted. There is a mental need that needs to be met with both the male and female. There are times when one has to listen and the other talks. Neither the male nor female should try to dominant the dialogue.

(1Corinthians 7:4) The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

God wants us not only to love each other, which is one of the main ingredients to hold two people together, but also to respect each other according to His Word and the position He has given us. When spouses have mutual esteem for one another, the love will grow and sustain the spouses. When there is a physical need, this scripture suggests, there is a submissive role on both the husband and the wife. This raises question, we know what we like about a person, but what about the things we do not like about them, and can you live with that for the rest of your life.

The male and female have areas in their lives that are not pleasing to them. Some people will try to do better, and some will not get any better. Are you willing to accept that for the rest of your life? Once a person accepts those behaviors in another's life, and then they will not go into a marriage trying to change him or her, or even get married at all.

(1Corinthians 13:4-8, RSV) Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong. But, rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends...

This love is Agape love. Agape love is unconditional. We tend for the most part to base our love off of how we feel; that kind of love can be turned on and off at will. Some love their mates based upon what they have done for them. Once a person becomes angry or stops doing those things as often, then the once set foundation for love has dwindled away. Love as it is illustrated and structured in the Holy Bible relates marriage to Christ and the Church. Teamwork or partnership in a marriage is a give and take concept. So many times, there is one doing all the giving, and he or she never is receiving. Both of the participants have to give and receive. True enough there is always going to be one giving more than the other. No one should be doing all of the giving, but expressing themselves to each other. There are opportunities available for the man to express his love for his bride even to die for her, just as Christ did for the Church. There are opportunities for the woman to express her faithfulness to the man, just as the Church is to Christ.

The relationship Christ has with the Church is a unique one. And so is every marriage in its own way. The relationship should not be solely based off of any outside influence, but the Holy Bible is the standard that brings harmony into the relationship. The responsibilities are interchangeable and should be shared. Society says that the woman should be in the kitchen and the man should be outside to cutting the grass. If the woman can cut the grass better and the man is a better cook, then let it be so. In all, the responsibilities of the household could be and should be worked together. This is not to say that the role of husband and wife are reversed, but they are teaming together to accomplish a task. When both the husband and the wife are working together, the task gets done quicker, and they will have more time for each other. Sharing the responsibilities in the home does not make one any less a husband or a wife.

The responsibilities of the household should not be shifted to one or the other, but shared. In doing so, the said “chores” can be done quicker, and this leaves more quality time for the family. So often the role of the family has been reversed. The reversed order of the home is contrary to the Word of God and often causes confusion for the entire family. The husband must take his role, and the wife must take her role. In our modern time, the husband has relinquished his role and authority. This position in the home is also reflected in the church. Women have taken the leading role in the home as well as in the church.

It’s true that a lot of men work on Sundays, but there are also a lot of men who do not work on Sundays. Let me dismiss a stereotype: **Church is not just for women only!!** God requires and invites men to worship Him. Can you imagine how great the anointing of the Holy Spirit will be, if the men will come and take their leading roles in the Church? The church is made up of 80% women; if the women of the church would ask the husband or mate to come to church, the church would double in size.

To worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ does not mean you are giving up your independence, nor does it make one weak, but what it does is surrender our leadership to the Supreme Leader and Lord that He may enhance and guide our leadership to be an effective leader of the family. The men who are in the church need to learn how to express themselves to God. It does not mean that one is weak, but it will show your appreciation to God for what He has done for you.

The Psalmist David said, “***Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts; we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple***” (*Psalms 65:4*).