

Christian Marriage and Family life

Jesus replied: *at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'.. and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate"* (MAT19:4-6) In the wisdom and plan of Almighty God had created the earth and prepared it in every way to be suitable to man. Adam was incomplete so that God could complete him with Eve. Eve was created to fill a unique and special role in creation. She was to be "a helper suitable for him," who could be his companion, receive his love and share his dominion over the earth. God brought her to him and they were placed them in the Garden of Eden. *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. .. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and be united unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*(GEN2:22-24) In Gen 1: 26 we see that God created mankind first of all to be like Him, to reflect His image in creation. The second purpose we see listed here is to rule over creation. Man is positioned as the pinnacle of creation, and is given authority over all the earth. In verse 27 we see that it takes both male and female to fulfill God's purposes. Then in verse 28 we see the third purpose: They are to reproduce--to be fruitful and multiply (raise children who will also reflect God's image), and "fill" the earth. *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply,*(GEN1:27,28) Some practical principles about relationships we find here are: 1) God created one, Adam, and provided him with one, Eve. that is, there is one woman for one man. 2) that God brought Eve to Adam (it wasn't his job to find a mate); 3) that their relationship necessitated him "leaving" father and mother 4) marriage requires "cleaving" (to be joined by commitment); to each other but also with Creator, striving to fulfill the God given purpose. 5) marriage should result in oneness ("*one flesh*" points to the physical body, but in principle would include all that a person is---mind, emotions, will, etc.) *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet(suitable) for him.*(GEN2:18)

Eve was created to help Adam fulfill God's purpose for mankind. But all did not end well in the Garden of Eden. Through attacking Eve's contentment, Satan was able to incite rebellion in mankind and sin entered into the world. Eve led her husband into direct violation of God's revealed will to them, and as a result, mankind was banished from paradise. That sin of Adam had forever after changed (as it were) the "plan of God" The Scriptures explain us that *"Wherefore, as by one man[i.e., Adam] sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"*(ROM5:12) So what has God planned for us instead? He gave us "the second Adam", which is Christ, that we might have life everlasting in Him.(JOH3:16) The Second Adam, which is Christ, has paid the price, bought with His own Blood, our freedom from the wages of sin which is death. *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam[which is Christ] was made a quickening spirit"* (1CO15:45-47) The first Adam brought death by his sin. The second Adam, which is Christ, brought life by His righteousness. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man is the Lord from Heaven. In Rom 8:1 We are to walk in the Spirit and not according to the flesh, we are certainly not to follow after the example of the first Adam (who was of the flesh), but after the second Adam (who is of the Spirit), which is Christ. We look to Christ as the example set for us in the true and current "plan of God for marriage" And the Marriage is to conform to the model of Christ and the Church. Eph 5:22-25 exhorts profound love with which a husband, following as after the model of Christ Himself, is to so love his wives, as selflessly and sacrificially as Christ Jesus loved for the benefit of His bride, the Church. And wives are therein spiritually called to be in their marriages as though they are the church being unto Christ, joyfully and willfully submissive to their husband, as their husband is supposed to be walking as though he is being as Christ Himself being married to wife. Apostle Paul explained, *"I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"*(2CO11:2) Marriages are dissolved only when Satan gains control over the life of one or both marriage partners. As long as both partners are committed to the will of God, problems which arise can be resolved.

Marriage is ordained and established by God before sin entered into the world. God implanted the divine design for the home. The home is the basic and most important institution of society. If the home degenerates, the Church and nation will degenerate. The home must be protected and its high standard maintained. "As goes the home so goes the entire social order" The Church is not to be influenced by the world/society but to sacrifice in influencing the world. The family belongs to God who made them; He has designed its nature, determined its purposes and appointed its responsibilities. We are always accountable to God. Homes are to be dedicated to the raising of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, instructs in righteousness and fear of the Lord and is responsible to serve Him.(EPH6:4)

Now there is an exception to this principle that, "it is not good that the man should be alone" The exception is with the man who has the gift of eunuchs, which is the state of remaining single or unmarried, especially in obedience to religious vows. Some are called by God to renounce marriage and family life, to a life of service in the mission, for the sake of the kingdom of heaven as responsible to God.(MAT19:12) Paul was an example, where this exception exists through the gift of God and of His grace, abstain from marriage cheerfully, consecrate themselves to Christ's work. (1CO7:6-8)And in eternity after the resurrection of the body men will "*neither marry, nor be given in marriage*(MAR12:25)