

The Reason for Marriage from the Beginning

by Brian Convery, January 2006

God has put a plan in place for all mankind to attain salvation. It is a truly wondrous thing to see and understand as it is explained throughout the scriptures of the Bible. God has told us in these very same scriptures that it is in them that we are given the instructions from God. It is in them that we receive teaching unto life. In Isaiah 28:9-10 God tells us the following;

9: "Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message? Those weaned from milk! Those drawn from the breast! [two questions and two answers]

10: For precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

God makes it very clear that it requires a degree of maturity to accomplish what He just said. An infant who is dependent on another to feed it will not be able to do what is necessary to feed itself spiritually let alone physically. Yes, precept will be upon precept throughout the bible for God is the same yesterday (first covenant), today (second covenant), and forever (the kingdom).

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 God reminds us in the second covenant scriptures,

16: "All doctrine is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17: that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work."

I have been told of late by some who claim to be members of the body of Christ that the bible, in particular the New Testament scriptures, are not the faith once delivered for us to live our lives by every word of God. In discussing a biblical doctrine I follow one such fellow wrote the following,

"Further, if we ourselves are not to be misled in this matter [that would mean by me and the others who attest to and practice the doctrine being discussed], we must take into account the fact that if God intends for us to reject the witnesses of unconverted men, we must reject the entire New

Testament! Indeed, for a matter as vital as the context of the entire New Testament for now God requires us to rely upon the witness of 3rd- 4th century unholy Catholic theologians, and perhaps some Inquisition era anti-Christian Jews, unless or until God sees fit to provide us with better sources."

Do we believe the scriptures are the inspired word of God or something else? I for one believe that Christ is true to His word. He tells us He will never leave nor forsake us and that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I need not look or search for any other source of truth, which shapes my understanding of the scriptures and the doctrines of God and my relationship with both the Father and the Son. It's all in there, everything we need.

I am reminded of the incident found in the gospel of John about Christ's encounter with the Pharisees in chapter 7:14-18. Christ went up to the feast and taught in the Temple. The "Jews" meaning those who followed Pharisaical teachings (Mark 7:3) were astounded that Christ understood scriptures of God because He had never studied under them. Christ's reply to them is simple, "Jesus answered them and said, My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wants to practice His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or I speak on My own."

Christ made it clear that He did not heed the teachings outside the scriptures. He did not place the witness or teachings or traditions of the elders above the word of God as the Jews of the time did. He was considered an outcast for doing so.

The scriptures make plain our path in life just as they do our understanding of the patterns which run through creation, which teach us about God and the way of God and about Their wondrous plan of salvation. Romans 1:20 is just one example of scripture telling us this.

20: "For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His

eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse.”

I happen to believe that comes from God (not some “3rd- 4th century unholy Catholic theologian”) and has been preserved by God for us today.

In the past we have studied many of the great patterns of God recorded in the pages of the bible and clearly visible in creation. Paul also tells us in Romans the first chapter in verses 16-17,

16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”

To me that is such simple instruction, so basic, so fundamental, if we in fact believe it. We learn of Gods righteousness through the scriptures and how we can apply it in our lives. To follow Gods instruction is an act of faith as much as an act of obedience. No! I do not believe unholy men wrote this life saving book we call the bible.

If we have had the honor and privilege to have understood the pattern of the plan of salvation and have not glorified God as to where that understanding has come from, and be thankful for it, we will then become futile in our hearts and the light will leave us and the darkness will flood in. We must always look first and foremost to the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints as Jude so soberingly reminds us in Jude, verse 4 he tells us why,

4: “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We absolutely need to believe that the scriptures were completed, delivered, and entrusted, to the early church saints for their benefit as well as our own, and that they in fact are the inspired word of God and the promise kept by Christ to never leave nor forsake us.

This is part of the qualification process to be of the body of Christ.

Most today have great difficulty understanding and recognizing who and what that body is. There are those who would destroy that faith in us if given the chance. The bible is our source of Godly knowledge.

Today we are going to examine a particular teaching of God as it relates to the plan of salvation and the body of Christ. We are going to do that by reviewing the relationship between Adam and Eve, and what it was meant to be, and what purpose God had ordained for it. We will also look at how that relationship is to be completed and perfected with the second Adam and second Eve.

There are actually some who claim to be in the body who ridicule the idea of a second Adam and Eve despite the clear scriptures and patterns. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:32 that these things are a great mystery. They certainly should not be to those who are called Saints and who have a deep abiding faith in Gods word and His ability to complete it.

In Genesis 1 we read about the creation account of the first six days. It tells us that the creation of all physical life took place during this time period. On the sixth day after all the other flesh types were created (fish, birds, land animals) we see something quite awesome taking place. We read about it in Genesis 1:26-28.

26: “Then God [Elohim-plural] said, let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

As we have seen in past studies that statement is quite a mouthful. Here we see “Elohim” are making man after Their image and likeness. That simply means to look like and have attributes of God. They did not give this to any of the other flesh types. This understanding seems to be anathema to many “modern” types today who worship the creation and not the creators. Man here is also used in a plural sense, which is important for in verse 27 we see that God made them male and female, or man and woman. In verse 28 they are given

specific direction.

28: “Then God blessed them [by giving them a spirit which could enable them to make moral decisions unlike anything else in the physical creation for all the other flesh types are empowered with instinct] and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

So here we see man, both male and female, were to multiply themselves. That is in the image and likeness of God, for that is the physical example of what God is doing spiritually through the physical creation and explained in Their plan of salvation. Man and woman were to reproduce their own kind. That is the most important physical command God gave from the get go. Then they were to have dominion over the earth. Both man and woman had joint dominion over it. They however were not given dominion one over the other at creation. From the very beginning they were co-heirs of these commands and tasks. Satan the devil hates mankind. He has and will do all he can to pervert this initial command to reproduce and create a family of mankind.

God’s instruction at creation is pivotal to our instruction as to the plan of salvation for all of mankind. We will be looking at how the first two human beings failed miserably in their relationship with God and with each other, which required the need for a second, Adam and second Eve.

Genesis 2 gives us some fundamental truths about the physical relationship of Adam and Eve. Verses 20-24,

20: “So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. [That is because Eve had not yet been created.]

21: And the Lord God [He who became Christ] caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; [just as the second Adam will do prior to His wife being able to be from His body], and He took one of His ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

22: Then the rib which God had taken from man

He formed into a woman, and He brought her to man.

23: And the man said, this now at last is bone of my bone and flesh from my flesh. For this shall be called woman because this has been taken out of man.

24: Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Here we have received some very important basic family instruction. A husband and wife are to be “one”. They are to be inseparable, and function as one in their commands from God to be fruitful and multiply and have dominion over the earth. A husband (man) and wife (woman) are to cleave to one another. That is instruction to Adam and Eve and all their offspring to follow. It is basic instruction in marriage and family. God makes it clear this is a relationship in “oneness” between a man and a woman. The aspect of “one flesh” is clearly described as to its nature in 1 Corinthians 6:16,

16: “Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her, for the two He says shall become one flesh.”

This physical oneness of flesh is of a sexual nature. It is the basic function of multiplying and filling the earth. Not even a father or mother are to come between the oneness of their offspring when they have left and become a new household. This is a very important lesson because it also applies to a relationship between a man or woman and God as well as we will see in this study. Lets be quite clear about what God is saying in Genesis 2:24.

The Hebrew word for “leave” here is #5800 in Strongs;

“Azab: a prime root; to loosen, ie: relinquish.”

The Brown, Driver, Briggs says of it,

“leave, forsake, loose”, as depart from or leave behind.”

Now why is this important? Because it says this in regard to a man doing so to his father and mother when he is going to start a new household with his wife. At this time a man leaves the umbrella of his parents and now picks up the command to be one flesh with his

bride and then to be fruitful and multiply. He is to be inseparable from her from then on in that sense. They together cut their own path one might say in forming a new household.

The Hebrew for “cleave to or joined” here in verse 24 is #1692, “Dabaq: a prime root, properly to impinge, i.e. cling or adhere.”

The BDB says it is a verb, which means to “cling, cleave, keep close”.

This is all basic instruction from God as to Their expectations of family and marriage. Just imagine what a different place society would be if these tenants were actually undertaken by all. Unfortunately mankind has an evil adversary who wants to see the oneness and purpose of it (between a husband and wife) perverted and destroyed. Thus we see an ever-increasing visibility of homosexuality and defecation on the God ordained function of marriage. Yes, filthy abominable practices will flourish now and ever increase until the end of the age.

Oneness in marriage between a husband and wife is no different than that between a man and God. It is a relationship that should be one of leaving and cleaving, leaving the influence of another and cleaving in oneness to God. No one should be allowed to come between a husband and wife or between a man (or woman) and God. The relationships are both very personal and holy with great purposes for both.

In Genesis 3 we see where someone was allowed to enter in between the oneness of Adam and Eve and the terrible results of it. Verses 1-3.

1: “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

2: And the woman said to the serpent, we may eat the fruit of the tree’s of the garden,

3: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said; you shall not eat it nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”

Eve should have told the serpent to beat it at that time for she had responded correctly just as she had been

taught. The Devil was not about to give up so easily especially when he had her singled out and alone. In verses 4-7 we see the devil is not only successful in putting doubt in Eve’s mind but also using her relationship with Adam to get him to take a bite as well. He had successfully divided them. But look what follows in verse 11,

11: “and He [God] said, who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat.”

Now Adam could have answered this question from God forthrightly and honestly, but look where he went.

Verse 12,

12: “Then the man said, the woman who you gave to be with me [Gods fault] she gave me of the tree and I ate [Eve’s fault].”

Adam was covering his bases. Instead of becoming a savior to his wife he threw Eve to the dogs. He accepted no responsibility or accountability for his or her actions. In fact he blamed both Eve and God. 1 Timothy 2:14 tells us Adam was not deceived in this matter. He knew what he was doing.

Now God turned to Eve. Maybe there was some hope for mankind here even if she was deceived.

Verse 13,

13: “And the Lord God said to the woman, what is this you have done? And the woman said, the serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

After the true fashion of Adam she blamed someone else. In this case the serpent. Neither, Adam or Eve accepted responsibility for their actions. Look at the profound effect this has had on mankind and in particular the relationship between husband and wife and secondly between them and the creation around them.

Verse 16,

16: “To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception. In pain you shall

bring forth children. Your desire shall be toward your husband and he shall **rule** over you.”

No longer was woman to share the role of joint heir with her husband. Now man was to have dominion over her. She now had to look to her husband for everything. Rule here is #4910 in the Strongs.

“Mashal, a prime root; to rule (have, make to have) dominion.”

The BDB says of it,

“rule, have dominion, reign.”

From the beginning man did not have dominion over woman. They had a relationship of oneness and as such shared in the dominion over the earth. This changed as a result of sin! This sin started with Eve listening to someone other than her husband and being lead astray. Adam as a result of his own doing, willingly sinned. He could have been a savior to his wife and resist evil by correcting her error. He did the opposite. This was all very harmful to all mankind to come. But there was more. Because there was sin, there now needed to be physical blood shed for atonement or for a covering.

Verse 21,

21: “And Yehovah made coats of skin for the man and his wife and clothed them.”

Here we see something had to give up its life, shed its blood to cover them. This is the first account of death in Genesis. This was a major turning point or better said, defining moment in Gods (Elohim) plan for mankind. There is no doubt God had a contingency plan, which could be put into place in the event man failed the test. And yes man did fail! Man had been given very clear instructions and thus choices to make. We are going to look at several aspects of that contingency plan but first lets do a brief summation of some very important points we have read about from the bible in this study.

#1) It is very evident that God had laws in place for Adam and Eve to follow. God does not tell us how many from the pages of Genesis 1-3, but we have a few pertinent to the lessons They are conveying to us. The first Adam was not allowed to touch or eat of the

fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. In 3:11 God said to Adam,

11: “Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

It is easy to see that God was the lawgiver and man was to be obedient to Gods laws. God loved Adam and thus gave him Their commandments. It appears that they became burdensome to Adam and he broke the rules thus causing man to suffer tremendously under the burden of sin. Mans relationship with God then and now is predicated on a willingness on our part to yield to Gods ways and laws for they are there for our benefit. 1 John 5:3 tell us,

3: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

As well God reveals to us that there are physical laws in place such as things reproducing after their own kind, like cattle after the cattle kind, etc., as well as the sun moon and stars being used for “set times” which is not the focus for this study but all the same very important to understand that they have been in place since the beginning.

#2) Marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman. There are no other acceptable components in it to God. Two men can’t marry nor can two women, nor can a man and an animal, etc. Any of those combinations are an abomination to God and should be to man.

#3) The purpose for marriage is first and foremost to reproduce, to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Once again that clearly leaves out any combinations of marriage outside of a man and a woman.

#4) The married couple are to cleave one to the other, leaving their parents behind in the sense of establishing their own household. There is to be no outside interference to come between them. They are to establish goals together and function as one to accomplish them.

#5) Man and woman were to share in dominion over all the earth together but not over each other. After sin

man would now have dominion over woman. This is a very big turning point in their relationship.

#6) Woman would now endure great pain in bringing forth children. This was not the way it was to be. It typifies once again one of the results of sin. Now man would go through much travail to be born into the kingdom, the family of God. But at the beginning a much more peaceful method was in place.

#7) Now the shedding of innocent blood was required as a covering for mankind because of sin.

Man and woman were to be one physically and mentally. They were to share in what all the earth had to offer as co-inheritors. They were to be in the image and likeness of God. They had been given the ability to procreate after their own kind. That is something no angel has ever been given. The oneness of a husband and wife is a holy thing to God because of its potential to create new life, which has the ability to grow into beings capable of making moral and ethical decisions. Yes, in the image and likeness of God they are created. This was to be all done within the family structure and within the laws of God.

Satan absolutely hates us for having this ability. He cannot procreate! He was not created in the image and likeness of God but wants to be god. He is doing everything he is allowed to do to destroy the oneness and sanctity of marriage and the family.

Satan got to Adam through Eve. That is a fact of scripture for only Eve was deceived and not Adam. As I mentioned earlier, Adam could have, and should have been the savior of Eve his wife. Instead he decided to join her in her error when he knew it was wrong. Satan had successfully come between them and destroyed the oneness they had shared with each other.

Look how God sums up all these actions in Genesis 3:22-24.

22: "Then the Lord God said, behold the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil [not good from evil]. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever,

23: therefore the Lord God sent him out of the

garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24: So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword, which turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life."

Man no longer had access to the tree of life in the garden. As a result of willingly sinning man would now have to struggle in every day life. Adam and Eve would not be used to complete the plan of God to grow Their family. Another Adam and Eve would now be used to do so. This time around, the second Adam would not be so easily swayed as the first by his wife. Let there be no mistake, the plan of salvation is all about the expansion of the family of God and the obedience of all involved in willingly yielding to Gods laws.

The first Adam did not "cleave" to his wife. He abandoned her, threw her to the dogs. Remember, "the woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." The second Adam will not do this. That second Adam is Jesus the Christ. The plan is now well underway. We have a Patriarch (the Father), and a Son (Jesus) in place. We are now into the betrothal stage of that family plan. That means the Father is calling a bride to His son who is of His kindred, of His kind. It is just like the scriptures depict in Abraham seeking a bride for his son Isaac. Not just anyone would do. They had to be of his seed. We can read about it in Genesis 24. In verses 3-4 we read,

3: " and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;

4: but you shall go to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

This is a very important lesson to focus on when discussing the plan of salvation. Is God the Father seeking a wife for His son from all of mankind? No He is not! There is a qualifying process involved and the vast majority of mankind is excluded from having that opportunity to fulfill this part of the plan. Some scream that is "unfair" but that is a fact of scripture. I'm sure the Canaanite lords screamed about missing such an opportunity for their daughters as well, for Abraham

was very wealthy. We have discussed much of this in past studies and will not go there in this study.

Marriage is a very important step in the lives of every man and woman who seek to share their lives together in oneness and creating a family. There are many rules and guidelines to be found in the scriptures as to marriage, some under the first covenant and some under the second covenant. Lets cover a few very important ones.

Genesis 2:24,

24: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh.”

There is a very big lesson here which I can't emphasize enough. The man is now taking on the responsibilities and accountabilities of a new household, which he and his wife are forming. They together will become one flesh physically and then take on the roles of father and mother as well those of husband and wife. They both “leave” their father and mother to be joined to each other. Dad and Mom do not run this new household. Junior has to step up to the plate with the maturity required to run a new household and provide for it physically and spiritually. 1 Timothy 5:8 instructs us,

8: “But if anyone does not provide for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

There are few exceptions to this rule. Common sense and the bible dictate them.

1 Corinthians 14:35 has some very important instruction for the physical and spiritual well being of that marriage relationship.

35: “And if they want to learn something, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.”

If only Eve had have followed this pattern she would have gone back to her husband Adam when the serpent was teaching (deceiving) her as to the instructions she had received from her husband. This is an example to

be maintained in marriage physically and spiritually. It is not a putdown but the example of what the second Eve is to be doing with her husband the second Adam. As the betrothed of Christ we are to turn to Him and Him alone for our instruction in righteousness. The husband should be the spiritual head of the household. If the future husband is not capable of filling this God ordained role then the woman should have grave reservations about entering into a union for life with Junior. Scripture is very plain on this point. 1 Corinthians 11:3,

3: “ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

If Junior can't handle this biblical order of things then big trouble is around the corner. The first Adam fell short of this but the second will not. Lets review some scriptures, which tell us how the second Adam and Eve will function.

Ephesians 5:22-33 tells us about this spiritual marriage relationship.

22: “Wives submit to your own husbands as to the Lord.”

Now here is a real mouthful of instruction if we dig into it. To fully comprehend what we are being taught here we need to understand what the intent and meaning of the Greek word translated “submit” is. It is #5293 in the Strongs, hupotasso. Vines tells us it has 2 chief meanings and that is very, very, important. The first is used as a military term meaning “to rank under (hupo; under and tasso; to arrange) denotes to put in subjection, to subject”. This usage is a forced, and sometimes unagreed to thing. The second chief meaning is used in the “middle voice, to subject oneself, to obey, be subject to”. This is far different from the other usage. Here one is willingly yielding to another. A more accurate translation of verse 22 would be, “Wives willingly yield to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” A woman who willingly yields to the Lord does so because she trusts Him. She has built a foundation of reliance upon Him as her Savior. She turns to His words for instruction, edification, and comfort in life. If a woman who loves the Lord and has put herself in a position of willingly yielding to Him

intends to marry she needs to be able to believe her future husband can emulate that role at least in it's basic principles. If she has doubts about that then she had better put on the brakes real fast and evaluate the situation in light of this scripture as well as many others. If Junior can't or won't assume the spiritual role as head in the marriage then it will have no spiritual foundation and rest only on physical ones. That is a shaky foundation at best for one who already has a spiritual relationship and foundation with the Lord.

How important is this? Extremely, because a woman of God is told she must willingly yield to her physical husband as well as to her spiritual one. That is not a suggestion from God. If the physical husband is at odds with Gods instruction how in the world can the marriage last? I can tell you. It will only last if the woman abandons God and yields to Junior's way of doing things. What a tragedy that would be!

Verse 22 also instructs us that there are to be no surrogates for the physical or the spiritual husband. That means no preachers, pastors, or anyone, is to come between them, the oneness of a husband and wife. No benefactors allowed. That also means no father, mother, brother, sister, child, friend, stranger, judge, etc., is to occupy a position between them. This is exactly how the church, the second Eve, is to be dedicated to and willingly yielding herself to her spiritual Husband, the second Adam, Jesus the Christ. Mother Eve allowed a deceptive benefactor to come between herself and her husband Adam. She took the time to let the Devil fill her mind with slick words rather than leave after she had corrected him the first time.

Never, ever, let anyone come between you and your spouse. If you are members of an organization, which refers to itself as a church, never let it come between you and your spiritual husband whom you are at one with. I think all get my point here so I will move on to the incredible instruction here in Ephesians 5:23.

23: "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."

A woman must never have a doubt that her future

husband will be able to lay down his life for her, physically and spiritually, just as Christ has done for us all. The first Adam failed on both of these counts. Rather than take on the accountability for his wife's sin and correcting her, he joined her in her folly and in fact blamed his actions on her. He certainly didn't cleave to her did he! He sure didn't lay down his life for her did he! There was no spiritual oneness in the relationship. It was all about him and him alone.

Most young men in society today would do exactly what Adam did.

Verse 24,

24: "Therefore just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

To do this a husband and wife need to be on the same page. They need to share the same spiritual goals as well as physical goals. If that is not the case disaster is around the corner. All of this needs to be worked out prior to making marriage vows before God. A man and woman can't be entering into a marriage if they are at odds about who is who in the marriage, how the children will be raised, who will be the provider, and above all what God they worship and how. This is basic marriage instruction. Marriage is a lifelong commitment; it is forever, in sickness and in health, in good times and in bad times, and especially in the Lord!

Now God is very aware of the differences that exist between men and women for God created them. God understands the physical differences like no other, but also the emotional ones as well. We have seen some very specific instruction so far as to a woman, now God is going to do the same about a man. God is well aware that men have a proclivity for self-centeredness and that they think that is the basis of oneness. Unfortunately that oneness focuses on "me" not "us".

Verses 25-27,

25: "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it

26: that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27: 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.”

Men, can we say we hold these things in our thoughts? Are we able to build up our relationship to the point that we are so proud of our future wife (or in the case of those of us who are married) that we want to display her and that relationship before God the Father and anyone else willing to look? Jesus is doing that and He expects it from us as well because we too are His bride spiritually. That also goes for women too. Are you willing to present your potential husband as your spiritual head as you would the Lord? Then our actions will speak louder than words. If we are ashamed to present our future spouses before God we had better take a break and get it together.

Verse 28,

28: “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”

Oh, how the world has divorced itself from this basic principle of marriage. Satan has endeared the world to “self”. If the going gets a little touch bail out! Men function this way far more than women. Actually I should say Junior’s do. “It’s not my fault”, “You will do it my way or the highway”. That is not the way it is supposed to be.

Verse 29-31,

29: “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

30: For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

31: For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

The physical and spiritual Adam and Eve are exactly the same as to the creation pattern. Verse 32 tells us,

“this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning the church.”

It should not be a mystery to those called of God.

Paul sums up this marriage instruction in verse 33 before he moves onto child rearing instructions.

33: “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Simple instruction to us all. Our physical relationship must mirror our spiritual relationship with our husband even if only reflected dimly in a mirror. There needs to be commitment and effort to live a marriage of oneness in the Lord if we are called of God.

If called of God a husband and wife should be physically and spiritually at one with each other. That commitment starts prior to marriage. If it doesn’t then there is no basis to do so afterwards.

Unfortunately this is not always the case. Often we see a young person make up their mind they are going to marry a certain individual and hope they can change them, convert them. That is a big misunderstanding of human nature. In the past I have had to give counsel in such situations. It is no use trying to prevent the union even knowing it is only going to be physical. It is at that time that the one who has a relationship with the Lord needs to be instructed in their responsibilities in such a situation. He or she must have spiritual control of the marriage. There needs to be a peace on this, prior to making the vows. That means he or she needs to press for the commitment from the future spouse, that family matters such as raising children, keeping the feasts of the Lord, etc will be carried out as per Gods instruction and commands. There must be no opposition from the future spouse on this point. They must be willing to commit to not breaking the laws of God or corrupting the children of that union. This must also be discussed with the parents of the spouse who does not have a relationship with the Lord. They need to be told point blank that there will be absolutely no interference in their relationship especially when it comes to raising children in the Lord. If the future spouse will not stand up at that time to inform his or her parents as well as others to this point then walk away as fast as you can because you are in for a life of heartache.

Satan the archenemy of mankind and thus the plan of salvation has used every overt and covert power at his disposal (that God has permitted him to use) to attempt to destroy the sanctity of marriage and the bond of family. He has perverted the meaning and functions of both to the point that most modern types today have an entirely different outlook on them than what scripture says.

Here in Ephesians 5 and verse 31 the apostle Paul through the inspiration of God repeats Gods command to mankind from Genesis 2:24.

31: “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Joined is #4347 in the Strong’s, proskollao; which means to glue to, to stick to. Leave is #2641, kataleipo and means to leave behind, to abandon, forsake.

The separation is with ones father and mother, not with ones spouse. Satan has turned this upside down! Divorce is running rampant through marriages in those societies in the world that claim to be Christian.

What did our Creator and future Husband have to say about Divorce when He walked the earth as Jesus the Christ? Matthew 19:3-9

3: “The Pharisees also came to Him testing Him, and saying to Him, is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?

4: And He answered and said to them, have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female

5: and 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?

6: So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

7: They said to Him, why then did Moses [not God] command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?

8: He said to them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

9: And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife,

except for sexual immorality [destroying the oneness] and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced [because of sexual immorality on her part] commits adultery.”

This is very clear and simple instruction for us to understand. No hide and seek involved.

The only thing, which can divorce two married individuals, that is a man and a woman, is sexual immorality on the part of one or the other. That is because it is an abomination to the sanctity of the oneness between the two. It is incredibly vile in the eyes of God. The oneness of flesh is the most intimate relationship two human beings can share with each other and that is why it is reserved for marriage alone. The commitment, which goes along with it, is to be forever. This command from the beginning insured that the offspring, which came from that sexual relationship, would always have the protection of the family in the bond of marriage. No out of wedlock sexual relationships, and certainly no homosexual relationships.

Many today do not understand these things and are used by Satan to twist this simple truth. Remember how simply God put it in 1 Corinthians 6:16-18, “Or do you not know he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her for the two He says shall become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

God makes it very clear that neither a man nor a woman can participate in sex outside of marriage. To do so violates every tenant of “oneness” in their marriage relationship. Here Christ uses that same example but on a higher plain as He ties it to His relationship with us. That is because we are called to take part in a MARRIAGE relationship with Him at this time. The physical pattern and command is only a shadow of the spiritual. That is why we read this same instruction in both Matthew 19 and Mark 10 and many other places in scripture.

In Mark 10:9 we read,

9: "Therefore what God has joined together let not man separate."

Let there be no doubt, marriage is of God. Man can have all the rules and regulations he wishes on the subject but only Gods count. God is the lawgiver. God alone sets the parameters as to what is right and wrong, good and evil, holy and unholy, clean and unclean, etc. No man be it a father, mother, sister, brother, friend, child, judge, priest, minister, or whomever has the authority to alter what God says and separate a husband and wife.

A marriage vow to ones spouse is made before God. We are not just talking to each other when we exchange our vows but in the hearing of God whom we are telling we are committed forever. This is all so important to God (Elohim) because They have made this commitment a major part in their plan of salvation. That plan is all about growing the family of God. The members of that family are to be obedient to the family rules. Being one flesh in a marriage is just a shadow of what being one flesh spiritually is. It is that oneness which is used to create new life. Man was given that ability physically to procreate as a result of this oneness. Angels were never given that ability. Neither have any two men or any two women. Sex is to be a blessing between a married man and woman. Satan has perverted this to incredible ends. He is very jealous of this gift mankind has been given. Not only jealous but enraged by the fact that we can procreate and he can't. He has no possible part in that in the plan of salvation. He is its adversary and is allowed to deceive mankind so that eventually God will be able to use all that example of filthy behavior to show mankind what the terrible depths of depravity can be

garnered from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Only after this will the vast majority of mankind who have ever lived be ready and willing and longing to take of the fruit of the tree of life.

Marriage is a very vital part of this plan to liberate mankind from that terrible decision made by Adam and Eve so long ago in their flawed personal relationship.

Our approach to physical marriage tells God where we are in our understanding and commitment to our calling to an even more important union.

God is creating a family. They are reproducing after Their own kind and will do so only through the laws and pattern established in the plan of salvation.

I have undertaken this short study because I see a need in the lives of many including myself to better understand how important our actions are when it comes to marriage. Whether we are married, contemplating marriage, or irreconcilably separated from one we had been married to, we need to conduct ourselves according to Gods instructions and not mans. Our relationship with our spouse must to as great an extent as humanly possible reflect the spiritual one we are to have with Jesus Christ.

There is a lot more which could be said but I think and hope this is enough basic information to be of assistance to the body of Christ when contemplating entering into a marriage relationship. I wait for the day when our Husband comes for us and the great wedding in heaven takes place.

My peace I give to you.