

For Better or For Worse Lesson 1 3Q 2007

Adam and Eve the Intended Ideal

What was God's original ideal for marriage?

Read memory text – thoughts? What does it mean to become “one flesh”?

SUNDAY

Read Genesis 1:27 at the top and then the first two paragraphs – thoughts? What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How does male and female impact our understanding of God?

Are you uncomfortable with God as a female? As male? Do we miss something if we see God as only male? If so what? Do we miss something in our own marriage experience? In our own identity?

DT 32:11 like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them on its pinions.

ISA 49:15 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
ISA 49:16 See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.

ISA 66:12 For this is what the LORD says:

"I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream;
you will nurse and be carried on her arm
and dandled on her knees.

ISA 66:13 As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

HOS 13:8 Like a bear robbed of her cubs,
I will attack them and rip them open.
Like a lion I will devour them;
a wild animal will tear them apart.

MT 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

What do you think of these female images of God?

What does it mean we were created in the image of God?

The true object of education is to **restore the image of God in the soul**. In the beginning, God created man in **his own likeness**. He endowed him with noble qualities. His mind was well-balanced, and all the powers of his being were harmonious. But the fall and its effects have perverted these gifts. **Sin has marred and well-nigh obliterated the image of God in man**. It was to restore this that the plan of salvation was devised, and a life of probation was granted to man. To bring him back to the perfection in which he was first created, is the great object of life,--the object that underlies every other. It is the work of parents and teachers, in the education of the youth, to co-operate with the divine purpose; and in so doing they are "laborers together with God." [1 COR. 3:9.] {CE 63.3}

Every human being, **created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator-- individuality, power to think and to do**. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. **It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought**. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions. {Ed 17.2}

Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It fortifies the mind against evil. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to the great principles of right. **As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God**. Ed 17.

When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. . . .

It was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image--the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. FLB 30.

Thoughts? What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How can we cooperate with God for His restored image within? Can we be restored if we don't think? If we don't reason? If we don't comprehend God and His methods? Can we be restored if we hold to lies about God?

Read bottom paragraph – thoughts?

Read bottom green question – thoughts? How does the death of Jesus help us understand God's love? Does it make a difference if you see Jesus dying to appease the Father vs Jesus dying to win us to trust, expose the liar and heal this creation?

If you had a brother who was dying of heart failure, and your father who was a surgeon, demanded that someone must die in order for your father to be willing to do surgery and save your brother – what would you think of your father? But what if the only way to save your brother was a heart transplant, and the only way to get that was for someone to die, and what if your father was willing to give his heart, his life to your brother then what would you think of your father?

MONDAY

Top question read – thoughts? What was the primary purpose of Eve – to complete Adam i.e. Mankind – Mankind was not complete as a single unit – why? Because Godlike love cannot be experienced without someone to love, someone to give to, someone to serve who can receive your love, process it, and return it freely. Eve was given to Adam for Adam to serve and give of himself to uplift and ennoble her.

First paragraphs points out that God had Adam name the animals before he created Eve, why? Did it do this to prevent an argument over what to name them? Or was it to awaken in Adam a greater sense of appreciation, value and love for Eve when she was brought to him?

Read bottom paragraph – thoughts? What about Adam's reciprocal? She was to receive all the love Adam could give, internalize it, grow in and from it, process it and return it to Adam with her own unique color, flavor, touch and the circle of love completes. She was to help Adam grow in his ability to love!

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 2:24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Thoughts? What is the meaning of this text? Is it important? What happens when this doesn't transpire in families? Does it mean we ignore our parents? How do we find balance? Is there wisdom here, not just for the new marriage partners, but for their parents as well?

WEDNESDAY

Two are better than one – suggests that together we are stronger, safe, more capable, successful and powerful than separate – thoughts?

How are we better off united than divided? Physically, science has shown that married couples in harmony have better physical health than those not in healthy marriages.

What about dealing with life's problems? Is it easier with someone to empathize? Is it easier knowing someone loves you and cares about you? Is it easier to face the world knowing you have a friend at home?

Does a couple who values each other's ideas and opinions benefit in some way over couples in which only one spouse's ideas are permitted to be heard? What benefits?

Was Eve alone in the garden or was Adam with her?

But what is the danger of being together? Would Adam have been as vulnerable to deception by anyone other than Eve? Can a relationship be a powerful tool for deception?

What is the lesson?

And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe, but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God, and a turning to men, putting human wisdom in place of divine. {CW 39.3}

Should we let relationships form our characters and beliefs for us?

THURSDAY

The Curse on the Relationship – what do you think it means “Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.” Do you think God was proscribing a punishment on women? Do you think God was stating His will and ideal for relationships? What was going on?

Why did God say this? What was now the condition of mankind? What was the natural state of their hearts? What motivated sinful man to action? Selfishness/survival of the fittest and how well do relationships work when both people are self-centered? Fighting for control? Always trying to get and not seeking to give? Does that sound like love?

Does God like to see men dominating women? Is God happy when women are forced to be silent in church? When women are denied leadership positions?

Read bottom paragraph – thoughts? Does the Bible states wives should submit to their husbands? Or does the Bible state that women are to submit to Christlike treatment from their husbands? If a woman is married to a man and the man wants to have her pose in pornographic magazines in order to make money, should she say, “The Bible says I should submit to my husband”? Are wives to submit their individuality, identity ability to think and reason to their husbands? Or are wives to submit to loving treatment from their husbands?

FRIDAY

Read questions 1, 2, and 4 and discuss