

- THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

• **The Triune Lord (Three Persons, Not Unitarian)**

- An origin in the Eternal Triune Maker and Redeemer (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

No sooner do I conceive of the One than I am illumined by the Splendor of the Three; no sooner do I distinguish Them than I am carried back to the One. When I think of any One of the Three I think of Him as the Whole, and my eyes are filled, and the greater part of what I am thinking of escapes me. I cannot grasp the greatness of That One so as to attribute a greater greatness to the Rest. When I contemplate the Three together, I see but one torch, and cannot divide or measure out the Undivided Light. - Gregory of Nazianzus

- The glory of the Triune Lord must infect our thoughts and permeate our own sense of origin, being, purpose, and calling
 - There is no better evidence of Three-Person God than the relationships of men
 - All human relationships have their origin in the Creator God and just as He dwelt for all eternity in the fellowship of the Persons, being only One God, so in similar, but not same fashion we are made for fellowship

• **All Creation Resounds with Personality and Fellowship**

The authority of the father, the love of the mother, and the obedience of the child form in their unity the threefold cord that binds together and sustains all relationships within human society. Within the psychological life of every integrated personality this triple cord forms the motif and melody. No man is complete without some feminine qualities, no woman is complete without some masculine qualities, and to both man and woman, the child is held up as an example (Matt. 18:3). These three characteristics and gifts are always needed in every society and in every civilization, in the church and in the state. Authority, love, and obedience are the pillars of all human society. - Bavinck

- The family is the center of everything,
- It is the foundation for all other public memberships (from church to state)
- Father, Mother, Child represents the Trinity as a unit
- The Family bears the Image of God in His fullness

• **A Divine Gift - God Giving a Woman to a Man (Ish and Isha)**

- Man First - From the Dust of the Earth

The first human being, furthermore, was created immediately as a man, neither neuter nor androgynous, but with a specific sex. - Bavinck

- God Gave Woman to Man - From the Rib, the body of man

So the woman is the answer to the question that flowed from the man's heart and across his lips. She is the answer to his prayer, the gift God so richly and lovingly bestowed upon him. - Bavinck

- Man received that gift with incredible joy, longing, and satisfaction
- Man was also given to woman in order that she might be complete through him
- Marriage is a incredible gift from God to also accomplish all God's purposes and it is the only institution that can serve as the furnace that drives the engine of society in terms of growth and perfection

- WHAT MARRIAGE IS FOR

• **Companionship - It is NOT GOOD for Man to Be Alone**

- God made Adam with a yearning in his soul for companionship that he learned could not be fulfilled by any other creature in all of creation, save woman
 - This is a craving, a longing, and yearning for marriage along the desires that God specifically gives to a man, that is a male human
 - The woman is the perfect compliment to man, and man for the woman
- From that companionship of mutual and complimentary love and devotion
 - The man was called to rule and expand the garden
 - The woman was called to submit and tend what had been brought into the bounds of possession
 - This complimentary mission is to be done as intimate companions
 - Dominion is not a job for robots but for living, soul-bearing, sexual beings

• **Holiness, Joy, and Satisfaction**

- Marriage is at its root the clearest expression of what man confesses about God, and who you God is affects how our marriages will be organized, shaped, and exercised on earth
- The man and woman were given to one another to nurture spiritual joy and fear of the Lord with one another and as individuals
- The husband is to be concerned with the holiness of his wife and the same in turn
 - Both are called to walk with the Lord as individuals, but this is not nearly enough
 - Each must know, love, and fear the Lord and walk in covenant faithfulness by assisting one another where the other is weak, sinful, in need of help and protection
- Each is called to guard the others hearts from temptation by not withholding the gifts that are associated with marriage specifically - sexual intimacy, physical provision, children

• **Multiplication**

Upon this fellowship of love, then, God has bestowed his blessing in a special way. He is the Creator of man and of woman, the Inaugurator of marriage, and the Sanctifier of matrimony. Each child born is the fruit of fellowship, and as such is also the fruit of divine blessing. The two-in-oneness of husband and wife expands with a child into a three-in-oneness. Father, mother, and child are one soul and one flesh, expanding and unfolding the one image of God, united within threefold diversity and diverse within harmonic unity. - Bavinck

- Marriage is to be the seed bed for the next generation of God-fearing soul-bearing persons who are called to walk in holiness before God and men
- Every our Redeemer learned and grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and men
- He did this first in the home, and in His Father's house, the Temple
- Each marriage should be trim at filling the earth
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- WHERE MARRIAGE TAKES US

• **A World Filled with Worshippers**

- World that is filled with those who purpose to receive and keep covenant with the Lord
- The home is that first, most immediate, and most natural center for education and moral formation - this is how God made it and so commands it

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 | 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

• **A World Filled with Beauty and Tenderness**

- The “world” hates the family because the family IS the instrument of covenant faithfulness, fruitfulness, and the defeat of wicked activity, deception, and oppression on earth
- For the world to be filled with beauty the family must be rightly operational
- Is there anything more beautiful than a family that functions well?
 - Not perfectly, but children who mind, spouses/parents who love and serve one another, and everyone fighting for each others’ good?
 - Many scoff now
- Let us see that all wealth is made by and serves the needs of the family
 - An economy cannot grow without, and ought not grow except to serve and bless the family, and an economy that forgets the family is ugly and will fail
 - There is a beautiful, slow, and thoughtful economy that centers upon and around the home of those who keep covenant

• **A World as God Intended - The Resurrection**

- Marriage has a creational origin, but a redemption focus
- No children were born into a perfect world, and this is why the name Eve is so beautiful
- When we point people to the Gospel, we do not point them in an isolated way, but we are seeking to bring them into not just the potential of being one person, saved, but as becoming a member of the body of believers, the family being the most accessible idea for it is not big and everyone understands it