

Male and Female Created He Them - Part 3

(Fellowship, Communion, and Intimacy)

Sunday PM, April 14, 2024

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Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

- I. God made man in his own image and likeness and He created man to need companionship.
 - A. But the need is much more defined than just general companionship - man needs a companion.
 - B. Man needs more than friendship; he needs more than a pal or a buddy.
 - 1. He needs someone with whom he can share his very soul.
 - 2. He needs someone with whom he can become one on the level of the soul.
 - C. Man was created to need a help meet for himself and the woman was created to fulfill that need.
 - D. The relationship between husband and wife goes far beyond the shallow waters of friendship and companionship.
 - 1. We may be friends and have companionship with many people, but we cannot experience what God has in mind for husband and wife with many people.
 - 2. By God's design it is a once in a lifetime experience.

Genesis 2:21-25 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 his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- E. This relationship develops in a certain order; it is not something that happens instantly.
 - 1. It is Genesis 4:1, after sin has entered into the world and they have been driven from the garden, before the Bible tells us that Adam "knew" his wife.
 - 2. The word "knew" has much more meaning here than most people think.
 - 3. To consider it to merely mean carnal knowledge is to make a terrible error and miss some of the most important knowledge and understanding.

To know (properly, to ascertain by seeing); (including observation, care, recognition; and instruction) be aware, comprehend, consider, be diligent, discern, discover, familiar friend, feel, instruct, have knowledge, make self known, + be learned, + lie by man, mark, perceive, privy to, prognosticator, regard, have respect, be sure, teach, understand.

- 4. So to "know" in the sense of a man knowing his wife speaks of intimate knowledge of her in every area of her being.
- 5. To truly know one another takes a lot of time and cannot happen quickly.

- 6. Many people live with their spouse for a lifetime and find out that they never really knew them - this is very sad and very devastating.
- 7. There is a progression in the development of this relationship, and we are going to look at the three distinct aspects of it.
- F. These truths should be our guides and way marks for courtship and marriage.

II. God created male and female so man could have fellowship.

- A. The word means communing or communicating thoughts, ideas, and opinions.
 - 1. It is a transparent sharing of our spirit with someone else.
- B. Fellowship is more than acquaintance - it is when we open up to one another and begin to share thoughts and ideas.
- C. Fellowship is when we do not just pass someone by, but stop to talk to them and get to know them somewhat - and allow them to see what is in us, also.
- D. We may fellowship with a lot of people as we live day by day whom we never get to know very well.
- E. Fellowship is the first step in getting to know someone and it remains pretty shallow with most of the people we are around.
- F. But it remains an important part of the marriage relationship, also, even though things are designed to advance far beyond fellowship.
 - 1. It is the every day, shallow water you wade in together.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

- G. If both parties are not walking in the light there can be no fellowship between them.
 - 1. If either has secret sins they will not be willing to be open with the other.
 - 2. There will be a wall around them to keep everyone out - especially the husband or wife.
 - 3. If a person is hiding their soul it is because of the darkness there, or it is because their companion hurts them when they open up.
- H. A person who walks in darkness will keep the curtain drawn on their soul and whatever fellowship anyone has with them, including their spouse, will always be very shallow.
- I. So the marriage relationship, by God's design, is very conducive to holiness and walking in the light.
 - 1. Being completely open and transparent with your spouse is a great obstacle to walking in darkness - you simply cannot do it.

III. Communion begets intimacy.

Commune - To converse; to talk together familiarly; to impart sentiments mutually, in private or familiar discourse.

- A. Communion is a step further than mere fellowship.
- B. It is when you begin to share each other's feelings and sentiments.
- C. It is when you reach out and touch each other's soul.
- D. It is when you begin to understand each other and get close - you begin to be dependent on one another, and develop a real need for each other.
- E. True communion is when you do not tire of one another's presence and company.
- F. True communion cannot develop with a soul that is in darkness.

- IV. Intimacy is when there is complete openness and trust has developed to the point of giving your self completely to your spouse without reserve.

Intimate - When the thoughts are entrusted to another without reserve.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (v. 25)

- A. True intimacy is when you give to another full admission to every part of your being.
 - 1. By God's design, this is only for one other person, not multiple ones.
 - B. It requires transparency - absolutely no secrets.
 - C. In the things we do and the places we go, of course.
 - D. In the other people we fellowship with and commune with, absolutely.
 - E. But it must go much, much deeper than that and include transparency in the innermost soul.
 - F. A man cannot KNOW his wife if she will not open her soul to him, and a woman cannot KNOW her husband unless he will do likewise.
 - G. So any kind of secrets or sin in either shuts down the intimacy and the relationship is grounded and severely limited.
 - 1. Although they may continue their physical intimacy it is unsatisfying and frustrating when their souls (or their hearts) are closed off from one another.
 - H. What is supposed to be "one flesh" is limited to the realm of good friends or roommates, at best.
 - 1. They may know a lot about one another and have a lot of common experiences, but they never find that oneness of soul that God intended when He created a help meet for Adam.
 - 2. They may have feelings for one another and have no desire to break up their marriage, but they have missed what it is all about and robbed themselves of the greatest blessings of life.
 - 3. It is possible to love someone and yet not really know them.
- V. This is the order in which the husband-wife relationship is supposed to develop.
- A. Everyone knows this to be true, yet they skip loosely down the path of courtship to marriage deceiving themselves about one another and their openness.
 - B. It is considered by most people now to be domineering by the man to want to really know his wife, or his future wife.
 - C. It is considered controlling and clinging if a woman really wants to know her husband, or her future husband.
 - D. Everyone seems to be of the opinion that everyone needs their space and there should be parts of our life that are closed off to our spouse.
 - 1. We need to use good sense here and not be unreasonable and ridiculous.
 - 2. There are some things where it is not suitable or proper to be together.
 - 3. It doesn't mean that we must be together every moment of every day.
 - 4. There are situations and activities where the man or the woman would be out of place or even in danger. (the man at work, a women's quilting party, etc.)
 - 5. But there should be no place or activity that either is involved in that the other is barred from knowing about and who is there with you and what you do and where you go.

6. If one has the desire to regularly or often be apart from their spouse in order to fellowship with people and do things outside of their sight and knowledge, it is a sure sign that they are not intimate.
 - E. In other words, while knowing this matter to be true most people reject it and pretend to be fellowshiping, communing, and intimate, when they are really only casual acquaintances.
 - F. They go ahead and get married under these conditions and soon find themselves in deep trouble.
 - G. This is also why unfaithfulness is so devastating in marriage.
 1. The one you have given your most intimate self to and trusted completely has betrayed your love and trust and counted it as nothing.
 2. Because marriage is such a deep and intimate relationship the very soul of that person is deeply wounded and scarred, and will struggle with opening up again.
- VI. The relationship between God and man is reflected in this husband-wife relationship.
- A. Most people do not have fellowship with God or his people at all.
 - B. Most people who do fellowship with God are very careful to stay in the shallowest water they can find.
 - C. Some people commune with God, but it is at set times and places and the rest of their time and life is spent with others.
 - D. Then there are the few who find real intimacy with God.
 1. They are the ones who open up the secret places of their heart to God and allow him full access to their entire being.
 2. They are those who abide with him and keep no secrets from him.
 3. They fellowship and commune with God always, and have special intimate moments with him where all the world and every other person is excluded.