

The Genesis of Mankind  
*Realigning Ourselves to God's Foundation*

**REVIEW of Session 01**

**Question >>>** *What is the condition of Christian marriage in the church?*

**Question 2 >>>** *What are we suggesting as the causes and what are the proposed solutions to this dilemma?*

**Conclusion:** If we can't diagnose the cause, it's impossible to find a truly helpful solution. A superficial diagnosis produces a superficial solution.

**Bottomline:** We have strayed so far from God's design that we don't even have the right goals for our marriages or our families.

Marriage is a foundational institution – a basic building block for God’s kingdom, designed for His glory. *Why would he be silent on such an important subject?*

Our greatest need is to recover the foundation that God has set. And that begins in Genesis.

## The Foundation of Genesis

### *A Blueprint or a Foundation?*

Very often you’ll hear or read someone say that Genesis is God’s *blueprint* for marriage. While this is true, I think this metaphor needs to be taken further.

The question is not only –

*“Are you going to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s blueprint?”*

The most important starting question is--

*“Are you going to \_\_\_\_\_ your marriage squarely onto the  
foundational \_\_\_\_\_ that God has set in place?”*

God gives all men specific and precise instructions for marriage. Marriage is His design, and marriage is for His Glory.

## A Quagmire of Interpretive Methods

### 7 FLAWS OF INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE

#### 1. Allegorical Flaw

- The literal meaning is not the true meaning.
- The surface meaning cloaks additional meanings.
- Secret knowledge or special privileges are required to understand the deeper meanings.

#### 2. Hyper-Literal Flaw

- The literal meaning is not the only meaning.
- The very letters, punctuation marks, and numerical coding contain hidden meanings invested by God.
- Bible codes.

#### 3. Devotional Flaw

- The literal meaning is not the only meaning.
- God inspires personal meaning from Scripture apart from the literal meaning for the sake of piety or personal edification.
- “*What does this verse mean to you?*” instead of “*What does God mean in this verse?*”
- A subjective impression becomes the final arbiter of Scripture.
- By accepting a false devotional understanding of Scripture we silence what God is actually saying through that Scripture.

#### 4. Liberal Flaw

- The literal meaning is subject to our rationality (educated human reason).
- Scripture is a human creation and is flawed. Therefore we have a right and a duty to reject parts of Scripture.
- Miracles and the supernatural are rejected. Jesus is not divine, but merely a good moral teacher and social reformer.
- Modern day Sadducees. Sadducees were the liberals of 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine.

### 5. Neo-Orthodox Flaw

- The literal meaning is irrelevant because the Bible isn't inspired by God.
- Scripture is not God's *direct* revelation; it's a *record* of God's revelation.
- Scripture is a flawed witness of God's revelation.
- We must look behind the words of Scripture to find the true meaning.
- In the absence of objective truth, religious experience is elevated as the starting point of truth.

### 6. Post-Modern Flaw

- There is no literal, objective meaning of Scripture.
- No one can really know the true meaning of Scripture.
- Favors doubt, dialog, questions, and "conversations".
- Mysticism is elevated.

### 7. Unconscious Flaw

- A soupy mix of all the preceding interpretive methods.

### The Foundational Mistake of all Interpretative Errors

- A low view of Scripture and a low view of God.
- God doesn't care enough to be clear in Scripture
- Scripture is flawed and is filled with weak points.

## HOW ARE WE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE?

### **Literal Interpretation.**

- What does Scripture say at face value?
- If you were to write a book to communicate certain truths, how would you want it to be interpreted?

How do you determine the intended meaning of any book?

You look at grammar.

You consider the culture that the author may be writing from.

You consider the audience.

You consider the historical setting.

You assume there is no hidden meaning. The text has one intended meaning.

You consider it's genre.

### **Scripture Gives us the added benefit by interpreting Scripture for us.**

“Scripture interprets Scripture.”

The writers of Scripture are often quoting or commenting on Scripture.

The Bible has an inward testimony of how it is to be interpreted.

## The GENESIS of Mankind

### **Genesis 1:26-28**

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion.... 31. And God saw that it was very good.*

## 5 GENESIS CHARACTERISTICS OF MAN IN GOD'S CREATED ORDER

### Characteristic 1: Man is a created being, designed with purpose

*Then God said, "Let us make man..."*

### **Genesis 1:26**

### Characteristic 2: Man is created in the image of God, bearing his likeness.

### **Genesis 1:26, 27**

*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;*

*Q. >>> What does it mean to bear the image of God?*

1. Given dominion over all the creatures and the earth.
2. Given responsibility to care for the well being of God's creation. Authority.
3. Created male and female.
4. Man is given a moral responsibility.
5. Man is commanded to multiply – procreate himself.
6. Man is made for relationship with God.
7. Man was made without sin.
8. Man has a free will.
9. Man was not made to be eternal, though he had an eternal potential.

**Psalm 8:4-5**

*...what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings, and crowned him with glory and honor.*

10. We are a little lower than angels, temporarily. Scripture tells us we will be elevated above angels, and we will even judge them.
11. God cares for us – which has a connection with Paul telling husbands to care for their wives as they care for their own bodies.
12. We are crowned with glory and honor.

What does the Gospel tell us about the image of God in us?

Our Christian life is a divine and human effort of restoring God's image within us.

**2 Corinthians 3:16**

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this come from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

***Your marriage relationship uniquely contributes to the glory of God in a way that is not possible individually.***

Characteristic 3: Man is made male and female.

***CRITICAL TRUTH: Men and Women are Equal in Value and Dignity***

Characteristic 4: Man is purposed to use his procreative powers to fill the Earth

**Genesis 1:26, 31**

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion...*

*... And God saw that it was very good.*

Characteristic 5: Man is purposed to Rule over the Earth