



The Great Divide -

Your Wife/Husband is not Your Enemy



God's Design for Oneness in Marriage

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

God gives us His plan for marriage in the very first marriage.

The overriding theme is Oneness. Oneness means that you have to distinct individuals who come together to live their life together, joined together permanently, like-minded (even though they are not alike), headed in the same direction, following the same God.

Visualize a three-legged race—you have two separate people who are joined together. They can work together in harmony and unity, finding a rhythm to their life. They agree on their direction and values. One may carry the weight more at some times than at others. Much more can be said about this relationship—it's reflection of Christ and the Church, a covenant relationship. A life of serving and sacrificing for the best of the other.

How did that "bite heard 'round the world impact" marriage? What happens when two perfect people with perfect bodies, a perfect parent, in a perfect circumstance, suddenly lose it all? What happens when the propensity for sin replaces a propensity for holiness? What happens to a marriage when a person suddenly starts trying to get their own needs met instead of enjoying the fellowship and communion with God and having Him meet all of those needs? What happens to a relationship when the husband and wife find the lies of the culture around them more appealing than the truth of God?

God explained to Adam and Eve that life would now become harder than they could have ever imagined. Fear and shame now becomes the lens through which they see life. Everything they hear is now filtered through that fear and shame.

Sin Separates

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you." Genesis 3:16

Eve believed the lies and deception of Satan (see previous article: The Bite Heard 'Round the World). The **punishment for the sin was death**—separation from God but also a physical death (her perfect body began to decay and eventually she died). After sin entered her life, God told Eve how the **consequences of sin would impact her life**. Before the fall, God had told Adam and Eve that one of their tasks was to populate the earth. Eve was to bear and raise many children; she was to be a wife to Adam.

God showed her that both of those tasks would now be difficult. I believe that He brought those into her life to draw

her back to Him; she could not live life on her own. He said that He was going to increase her pain in childbearing. The text infers that Eve would have had some pain in childbirth before the fall but that she would have greater pain now. She would now begin to call out for God in that experience.

The second consequence would be in her marriage. She would now have a desire for her husband. The Hebrew word for desire does not mean that she would desire him in a loving, admiration but **she would have a desire to control him**. It is the same word for desire that is used in Genesis 4:7b *But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.* The desire in that verse talks about a desire to control. God is saying to Eve that she will have **a desire to control her husband**.

But at the same time **her husband, in his sinful state, will try to rule over her**. He didn't say that her husband would lead her but he would try to rule her. **God's design was that men would be servant/leaders to their wives, not dominating rulers.**

God had given Adam the role to lead the family. He was created first; he received the command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When the serpent tempted Eve, where was Adam? The Bible says he was with her but did nothing, said nothing. He followed her into sin. But when God came to confront the sin, he addressed Adam. He held Adam responsible for the sin that contaminated all of humanity. *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)*

After the fall, instead of leading and loving their wives, husbands would try to rule over their wives (when they are living in the flesh, apart from the life of the Spirit in them). The **issue in marriage becomes who is in control**. It started in the beginning and is still one of the biggest issues in marriage today.

Instead of living out God's original design for marriage— living life together in harmony and unity, husbands and wives seek to satisfy their own desires, even when it means trying to control or rule over each other. It is not a sacrificial life or a serving life, but a life motivated by selfishness and pride. Our spouse becomes our enemy. Satan divides us.

Our spouse is not our enemy.... Satan is.

He wants to divide and conquer. **He knows that if he can divide a husband and wife, then he can destroy the oneness that God designed and desires for marriage. He can destroy the church and its relationship to Christ through destroying marriages.**

What God has joined together, let man not separate. Mark 10:9



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