

THE FIRST AND LAST MARRIAGE

Marriage.....what is it?

A little boy gave this description:

A marriage is when you find someone you want to keep!

Getting married is an event, but **being married** and living life is an **adventure** on a **road** with occasional curves, valleys, hills bumps and potholes.

Potholes:

- Damage the wheel alignment
- Swerve to avoid
- Unseen at times
- Repair: Wheels realigned and tires rebalanced

In marriage there is a **refining process** when 2 become 1

Wills of a married couple often need to be realigned and balanced.....

just as the **wheels** of a vehicle need to be realigned and balanced.

In today's world there are **many ideas** about what marriage is, but if you want to find out the **purpose** of something, consult the one **who designed it**. Let's learn from God himself.

Before the creation of the universe, there was God. There was also **LOVE**, for **God is Love**. **God is the original Royal family**, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three in one and fully in love.

Throughout the Bible we see them **serve, honor and love one another** in **Word** and **Action**. They worked in **unity** and **agreement**.

SYMPHONY - all the instruments are in harmony = beautiful sound

Father, Son, Holy Spirit - unity releases creative power

- **At Creation**
- **At the baptism of Jesus**
- **In Jesus' ministry**
- **At the Resurrection Three in one....getting it done!**
- **The place of agreement is the place of power.**

With love in mind, God decided to create a beautiful house called earth and fully furnished it and created man to enjoy it. **In creation of the universe.....we see the Power of God.**

God's Word has creative power! God spoke.....God saw.

Words bring life and death. Bless and encourage with your words!!!!

In the creation of manwe see God is personal

After God carefully formed man's body out of the dust, he came even closer to Adam's lifeless body and breathed life into him. It was a **close encounter** of the highest kind. Although God loved all of his creation, **he desired something more** with man:

RELATIONSHIPintimacy, fellowship, communion, honor and love.

God is a loving Father with dreams and desires for man that will bring joy to him and to man.

Mankind would have several roles to fulfill. Since they were made in God's image and likeness, they would: **REFLECT**God's image and character:

- **God is Love....man was designed to walk in love**

- **God is Light**.....man should walk in openness and honesty
- **God is Holy**man must walk in purity
- **God is Creator**.....man will be creative
- **God is Life**..... man should cherish each day to the fullest
- **God is Good**.....man should enjoy God and be good to others

REPRODUCEBe fruitful, multiply and fill the earth

REIGN..... rule and take dominion over creation

God gave Adam another special assignment. He was to **tend** the garden and to **guard** it. Or we could say he was to **work it** and **watch it**.

Adam lacked one thing to truly fulfill those roles.....**a helpmate**. Someone to share in all of this beauty and opportunity. God put Adam into a **deep sleep** and performed minor surgery on him and brought forth Eve. God performed the first marriage in an outdoor ceremony. Male and female became one flesh for **one life together under God**. Adam was the first bridegroom and Eve the first bride.

Bridegroom in Hebrew = One who joins himself to another in love

Adam and Eve became **one**. They were **equal but different** and together they represented different aspects of God's character. **Adam was provider and protector, Eve was comforter and nurturer.**

They had a nice **honeymoon**. Where did they go? Nowhere! They were already in paradise. Adam did not have to go hunting and fishing for food and Eve had no cooking to do. They had the original fast food.....ripe off a tree and pesticide free! **Speaking of trees, that was where paradise was lost when they ate from the forbidden tree. There was an enemy lurking in the garden who had instigated REBELLION** against man's relationship with God and his purposes.

God's Plan for the Couple: **Unite and conquer in life**

Three in one.....fully in love and getting it done

RELATIONSHIP under God: **REFLECT.....REPRODUCE.....REIGN**

Satan's Plan: **Divide and conquer....**

Separate the couple from God and each other.

The place of division and disunity isweakness

The honeymoon was over when **Adam blamed Eve** for leading him into temptation. The fallen couple no longer reflected God's image or reigned over creation. They would now be influenced by the world, the flesh and the devil. Adam did not keep watch. All men today should learn from his failure.

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage;

be strong. Do everything in love - 1 Corinthians 16:13

God was not caught by surprise, he had a **RESTORATION** plan through Jesus, the second Adam. Another marriage was already planned....**a ROYAL ONE**. Getting a **bride for Adam was quick and easy**.

Getting a bride for Jesus would take more time and the cost would be much more than the 50 shekels of silver, a common price during the times that Jesus walked this earth. The price was high.....

Jesus would give his lifeblood to purchase his bride. The first Adam had lost his inheritance at a tree, Jesus, the 2nd Adam would regain it for mankind at another tree.....the one at Calvary.

Note: Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding where he made the wine, how much more is he going to provide at the final wedding in history when he gathers His bride. - John 2:1-11

No one walked this earth with more Love, Grace, Compassion, Wisdom, Power and Victory than Jesus Christ. How did He do it???

- Maintained **Relationship** and **Communication** with Heavenly Father

- Walked in **humble submission** to the **WILL** of the Father in heaven
- **Led** and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit.
(married couples.....submit to one another in the fear of the Lord)

TRUE LOVE

- Sacrificial - lays down its life and interests for another.
- Without conditions (not I love you if, because or when)
- Directs and corrects if needed, give commendation before one gives correction when possible. (the example of Jesus to His church / Revelation chapters 2 and 3)

LOVE is the Royal Law of the Kingdom of God

We love God because he **first** loved us. (Be first to love and forgive)

A step out of love is a step into sin, therefore.....

Walk in Love for God's love never fails !!

Daily Alignment of Your Will: **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- **Honor your Father.....He is a King!**
- **Thy Kingdom come.....seek His will first, not yours**
- **Give us..... He is the source of all you need**
- **Forgive us..... Jesus forgave you, forgive one another**
- **Lead us..... be led by the Holy Spirit**
- **Glorify God**

What does God desire for his people and families today?

Relationship/Intimacy:

- **To see his church in unity**
- **To see married couples in harmony**
- **To see his bride get ready for the marriage supper**

Jesus is purifying his bride so as to present her to himself as a **glorious, radiant church** without stain or blemish, but holy and blameless - Ephesians 5:26-27

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and **His bride has made herself ready**. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. - Revelation 19:8-9

Jesus invites all of us to a wedding banquet.....It is the marriage supper of the Lamb and bride
Not everyone responds - Matthew 22. Your **reservation** must be listed in the **Lambs Book of Life**.

Jesus found a **Bride He wants to keep!!**

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