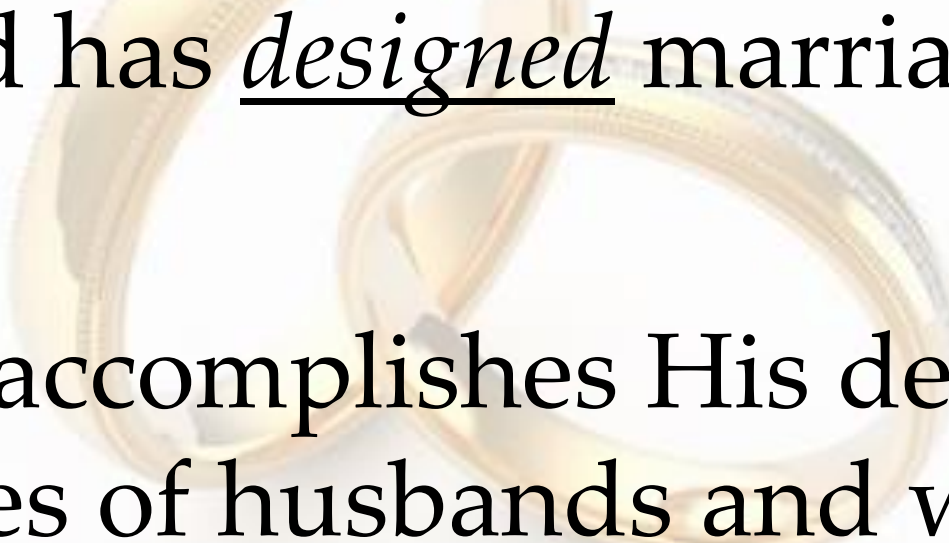


God's Design for Marriage

Week 1



We Will Study:

- 
- a. How God has designed marriage, and
 - b. How He accomplishes His designed plan in the lives of husbands and wives.

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to His purpose,

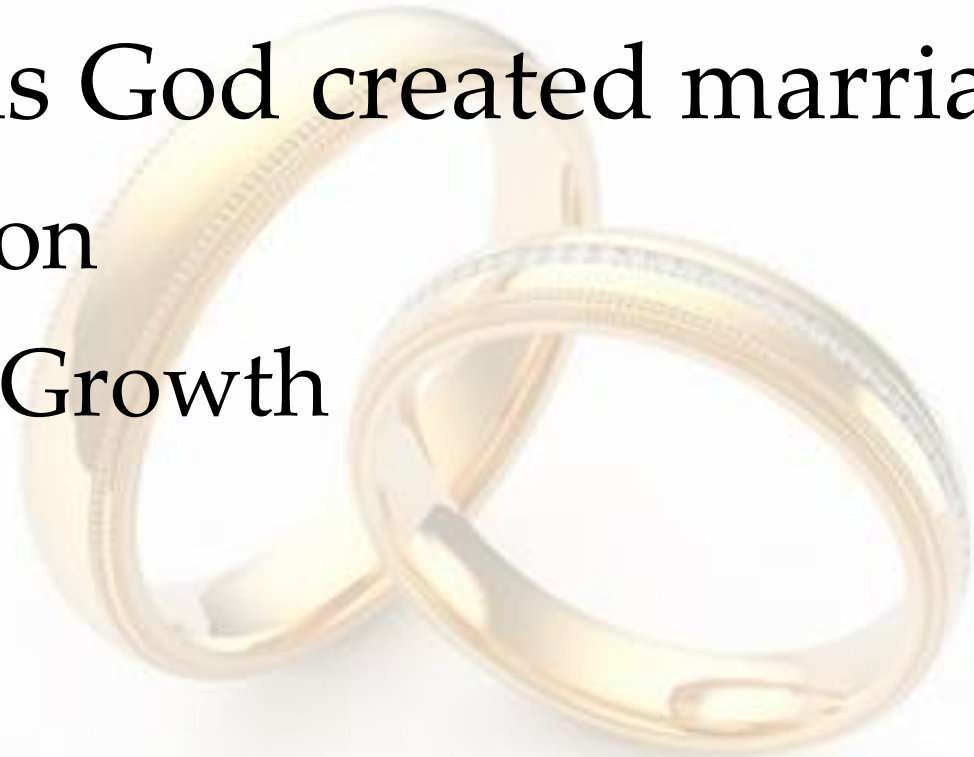
Romans 8:29 – “because those whom he foreknew, he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, so that he should be the first born among many brothers.”

Introductory Remarks

- God's goal: Conforming all of us to the image of His Son
- Marriage is a formidable exercise in discipleship
- Marriage is Just For Our Time on Earth
 - Therefore, God's purposes for marriage are for the here and now. (Mt. 22:30)

Introductory Remarks

- Two reasons God created marriage:
 - Procreation
 - Spiritual Growth

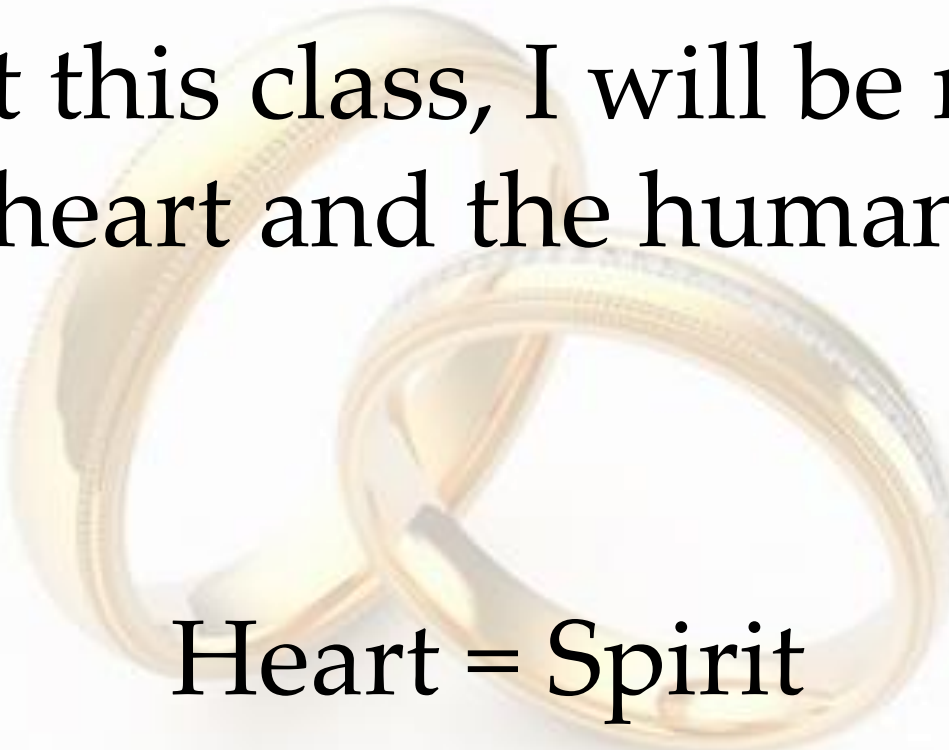


Introductory Remarks

- Be like the Bereans (Acts 17:5)
- On some points you may disagree with me, and that's OK.
- If your toes get stepped on, please check first to see if it's me or the Holy Spirit stepping.
- I am not perfect.

The Human Heart/Spirit

- Throughout this class, I will be referring to the human heart and the human spirit as the same thing.

Two interlocking gold rings are positioned in the background of the slide. They are slightly out of focus, creating a soft, ethereal effect. The rings are intertwined, symbolizing unity and connection.

Heart = Spirit

Heart/spirit = spirit/heart

Introductory Remarks – Issue #1

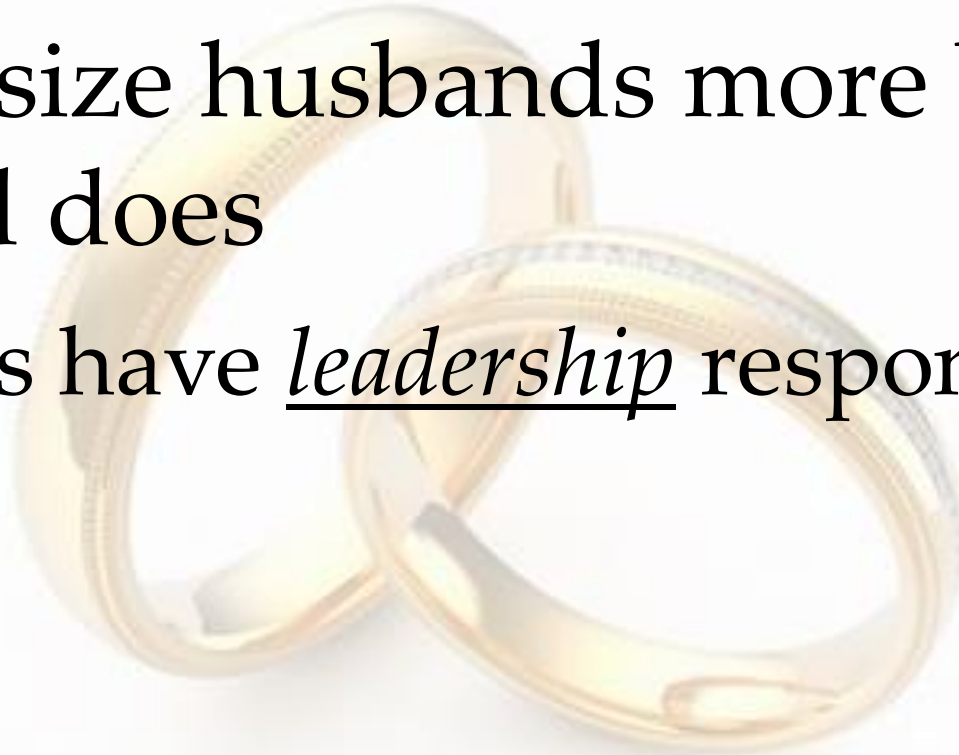
- Husbands and Wives Equal Before God
 - Both made in God's image
 - Both sinners in need of forgiveness
 - Both in need of a savior
 - As Christians, both have the Holy Spirit
 - Both can pray directly to God without a human mediator..... THAT SAID,

Introductory Remarks – Issue #1

- God says different things to husbands and wives because they have different roles and purposes *within the marriage.*
 - “What about her / him?”
 - “You’re not being fair!”
 - “Too focused on husbands”

Introductory Remarks – Issue #1

- I do emphasize husbands more because I believe God does
 - Husbands have leadership responsibility



Introductory Remarks – Issue #2

- What about single people?
 - Everyone is welcome; the material can benefit all;
 - Both 1 Cor 7:7 and Mt 19:3-12 indicate that people are “called” or “gifted” one way or the other.
 - Just being single does NOT mean that you aren’t called to be married...

Introductory Remarks – Issue #2

- The material is intended to help people who:
 - Are married
 - Will be getting married
 - Want to be married in the future
 - Are simply interested
- However, Everyone is welcome!

Course Outline

- Weeks 1-6: How God Designed Marriage
 - Weeks 1-2 He made them male and female
 - Weeks 3-4: The Call to Husbands
 - Weeks 5-6: The Call to Wives

----- BREAK (Feb. 13) -----

Course Outline

- Week 7-12: How God's design can accomplish His goals through marriage.
 - The human heart/spirit;
 - How God works through the dynamics of the hearts/spirits of two people in a marriage;
 - Baggage – Dealing with family of origin issues;
 - Moving forward

Why Marry?

- Why did you get married?
- What is the purpose of it?
 - You don't need marriage to procreate
 - You don't need marriage for companionship
 - You don't need marriage for any of the earthly reasons people get married.

Would You Agree?

- Marriage is a covenant relationship established by God.
- Bride and groom exchange vows...
 - ...and life goes on.
- Why take marriage seriously?
- Let's start at the beginning... Genesis 2

Two interlocking gold rings are positioned in the background, centered behind the text. The rings are shiny and have a textured inner band.

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:5-25

Summary: Genesis 2:5-9, 15

- No man to work the ground.
- God made Adam out of the dust of the ground and gave him life.
- God planted a garden in Eden.
- God put Adam in the garden to cultivate it. and be caretaker of it.

Observations: Genesis 2:5-9, 15

- Notice that so far there are 2 references to “cultivating the ground” (v5 and v15)
- The Garden was filled with lavish with beautiful trees bearing edible fruit.
- God specifically put Adam in the Garden to cultivate it and keep it.

Observations: Genesis 2:5-9, 15

- There were 2 “special” trees in the garden:
- The Tree of Life
- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Observations: Genesis 2:16-17

- God tells Adam that he can eat freely from any tree, and commands him not to eat from
- The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- Notice that all of this took place before God created Eve.

Observations: Genesis 2:18-20

- Immediately after the command, God says that it isn't good for the man to be alone, that
- He needs a "Helper Suitable" (Fit, Meet) for him.
- Plan A: Look through the animal kingdom.
 - Plan A doesn't find a helper for Adam

Observations: Genesis 2:21-22

- Plan B: God creates Eve from Adam's rib.
- Like a father walking his daughter down the wedding aisle to her groom, God brings Eve to Adam.
- Adam immediately recognizes her as being for him.

Observations: Genesis 2:24-25

- God declares marriage universal: For this cause
- God gives 2 commands husbands:
 - Husband must leave his parents house
 - Husband must cleave to his wife
- Without sin, they were naked and unashamed.

Two gold wedding rings are interlocked, one slightly behind and to the right of the other, set against a plain white background. The rings are simple, smooth bands with a polished finish.

Discussion

Week 1

Two interlocking gold rings are shown in the background, symbolizing connection and key points.

Key Points

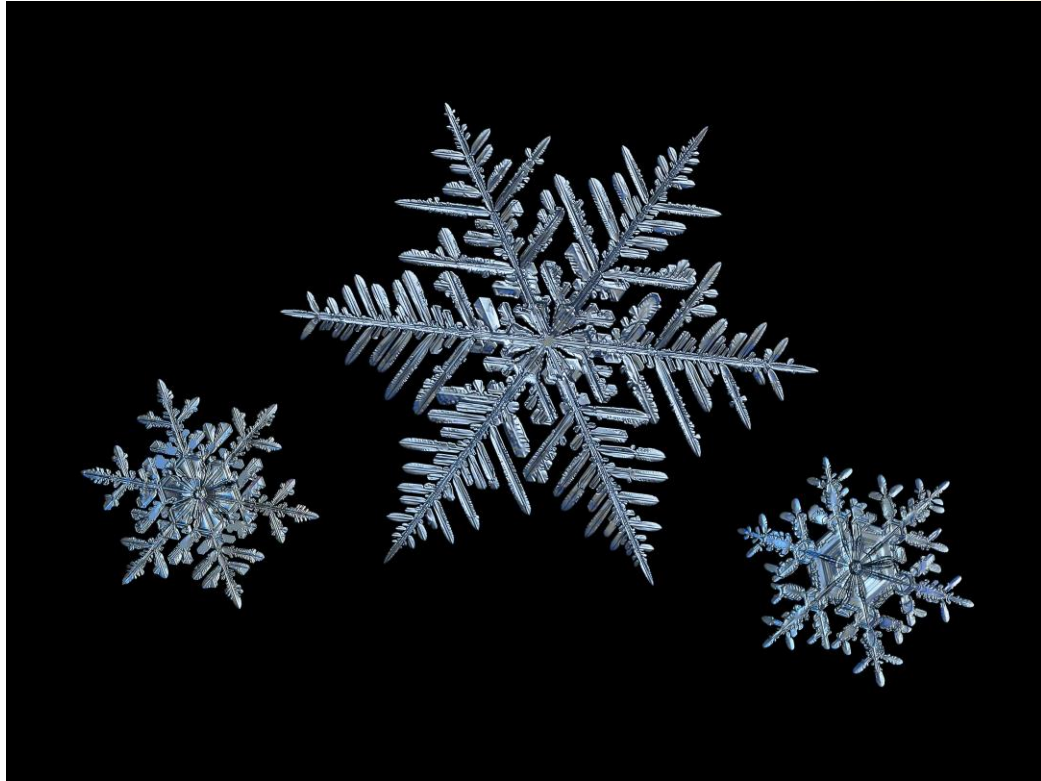
KEY POINT #1: Helper Suitable

- God determined that
 - It was not good for the man to be alone
 - The man needed a helper
- The helper needed to be
 - “suitable” (NASB),
 - “fit” (ESV)
 - “meet” (KJV)

KEY POINT #1: Helper Suitable

- Heb *neged* has 2 blended ideas:
 - Uniquely matches, a perfect fit, corresponding to (NASB margin note);
 - Standing opposite to, in front of, mirrored, conspicuous
- So, wives have 2 characteristics...

Wives Have 2 Characteristics



1. Perfectly and Uniquely Made for Him



2. Conspicuously Placed Right in Front of Him

KEY POINT #2: Not a Two Way Street

- Genesis already points out that woman is made for man, not the other way around.
 - 1 Cor 11:9 restates this.
- She is NOT a slave, not a domestic servant, not to be treated as a 2nd class citizen.

KEY POINT #2: Not a Two Way Street

- Woman was made for the man because God said that man needed help.
 - There is something that God wants husbands to learn that we don't already have in our toolkit.
- So God designed wives to be different for a purpose, even before the Fall.

KEY POINT #3: Husband Leaves & Cleaves

- Who wants to live with your parents when you get married?
- Leave – to start a new family unit directly under God
- Cleave – Solder or glue yourself to wife
 - Why???

KEY POINT #3: Husband Leaves & Cleaves

- Cleave – Solder or glue yourself to wife
 - Why???
 - To make her feel secure in his love
- Husbands, ask your wives
 - How secure do you feel in my love?

Summary – What do we know about Adam?

1. God gave him the job of cultivating and taking care of the garden of Eden;
2. God said he could eat anything but commanded him not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil;

Summary – What do we know about Adam?

3. God said that he needed a helper that is suitable for him, and God made Eve.
4. That he immediately recognized Eve as having been made for him.
5. That the Man needed a helper is the reason God initiated marriage.

Closing Questions

1. How much involvement did Adam have in establishing marriage?
2. How much involvement did Eve have in establishing marriage?
3. Jesus said, "...what ___? ___ has joined together, let no man separate".

Conclusions

- Adam was made to work.
- Adam needed help that can only be provided by his appointed wife.
- She is “appointed” because Jesus said that God joins husbands and wives together.

Homework

- Husbands: Ask your wife how secure she is in your love. Find out why.
- Wives: Ask your husbands what he thinks are the ways God made you different for the purpose of helping him. (other than physically, of course). Find out why.