

The Family: God's Final Act of Creation

- The first chapter reveals how God finished His creation Gen. 1:31-2:1:
- *God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. 1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.*
- In the second chapter, God explained in greater detail His final act of creation.
- He created Adam alone and left him that way until it was evident: *“It is not good that man should be alone; Gen. 2:18*

The Family: God's Final Act of Creation

- After it was evident to Adam God made Eve from his rib and brought the woman to him.
- *Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 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.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Gen. 2:22-24*

Adam Knew

- 1. A woman was taken from man
- 2. Eve was of same bone and flesh. Not of the dust of the earth, like everything else, but a part of him.
- 3. **Therefore**: The **obvious conclusion** of God's will and intent that Adam now understood.
- 4 This was the foundation of the family.
- 5. Because God did it in this manner, a man (**a son**) shall leave his **father** and **mother** (**a family**) and be joined to his **wife** (**a daughter**) and they shall become **one flesh** (**a new family**)
- God created Adam & Eve one flesh (married) and in the same act: the family.

When Adam was Alone

- Not Good! God's plan and creation incomplete
- For all that God had made to become "*very good*," Adam needed Eve by His side as his wife.
- They were created male and female – Gen 1.
- But created differently from all other living things in two distinct ways.
- **First**, both were created God's image and likeness
- **Second** they were created "*one flesh / married*."

Jesus Confirmed

- *He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, **they are no longer two but one flesh.** Therefore **what God has joined together,** let not man separate.” Mt 19:4-6*
- *But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ ... so then **they are no longer two, but one flesh.** 9 Therefore **what God has joined together,** let not man separate.” Mk. 10:6-9*
- *the two shall become one flesh: 32 This is a great mystery, Eph 5:31-3*

Most Tender Emotions of Humanity

- All the emotions of love are founded in this family.
 - Husband/Wife – *philos / agape / “knowing”*
 - Father / Mother – *philos / agape / storge*
 - Sons / Daughters – *philadelphia / storge / agape*
 - This “*natural affection*” is the foundation of all families that are not damaged by sin.
 - If sin doesn’t intervene, all families remain intact and children are loved, protected and guided.
 - Why did God create them one like this?
 - *And why one? He was seeking godly offspring.*
- Mal 2:15

God Sought Godly Offspring

- God places an identical eternal spirit in each unborn child as He did in Adam and Eve at the beginning: All are “*in His image and likeness.*”
- “*the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*” Eccl. 12:7
- God wants to give eternal life to every spirit that returns to Him.
- He “*desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” (1Tim. 2:4).
- He created the family to help make that possible.
- *And why one? He was seeking godly offspring.* (Mal 2:15).

This is Why God Hates Divorce

- *And why one? He **seeks godly offspring**. Therefore **take heed to your spirit**, And **let none deal treacherously** with the wife of his youth. 16 For the Lord God of Israel says That **He hates divorce**, For it covers one's garment with **violence**, Says the Lord of hosts. Therefore **take heed to your spirit**, That you do not **deal treacherously**. Mal. 2:15-16*
- Can we even imagine:
- How many souls God has lost because of divorce?
- How many treated treacherously and violently?
- How many nations have been destroyed?
- How many infants killed through Idolatry/Abortion
- The cost can't be calculated even in our generation.

This is the Commitment for all Families

- Regardless of provocations & anguish, the highest priority of a “*made one couple:*” Remain “*one.*”
- Everything God has revealed about serving and all instructions to the husband and wife lead to this.
- It is our highest priority/mandate for it is God’s Will and Intent for the Entire Creation since the beginning.
- Too often we see it from man’s perspective: “God wants me to be happy.”
- From God’s perspective: “The entire fabric of the creation since the beginning is based on being *one.*”

God's Will = Our Mandate

- God watches expectantly for us to do all within our power to help them return to Him: *godly offspring*.
- Jesus warned that “*everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more,*” (Lk. 12:48).
- Children are among the greatest things entrusted.
- Even parents are not exempt from Jesus warning:
- *But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.” Mk. 9:42-43*

All These Considerations in Place

- Our infant with an eternal spirit in the image of likeness of God is now in our home.
- We are fully committed to God's Will and Intent.
- They will be in our home for at least 18 years.
- We will watch an infant who can't even speak become an adult ready to leave and cleave.
- Some is God's creative genius we watch unfold:
- Others only accomplished through us or if left alone through unpredictability of time and chance
- *The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. Pr. 29:15*

The Comprehensive Goal

- *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Lk. 2:52*
- This was spoken at the age of twelve.
- Probably a good average for Paul's transition:
- *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1Cor. 13:11*
- What about the “*age of accountability.*”
- I have heard this expression all my life, but have never really been able to find an age in Scripture.
- I think I finally found it.

Age of Accountability as God Defined it

- *11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' ...16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? ... 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? Heb 3:11, 16, 18*
- *The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Num 14:29*
- *Everyone from twenty years old and upward, your entire number were held accountable.*

Age of Accountability as God Defined it

- *'Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. 40 But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.'* Dt. 1:39-40
- God didn't hold those under age of 20 accountable
- This is a much safer number than the arbitrary ones we have created.
- This doesn't mean some are not accountable earlier than others, but this is the full age where God draws the line.

The Role of Parents

- When they are a child we speak to them as a child:
- *When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child;*
- As they begin to transition to men/women we too put away childish things.
- *when I became a man, I put away childish things.*
- Jesus age of twelve is a good average. We then help them advance in wisdom and in favor with God and men.

The Question to the Shulamite

- *We have a little sister, And she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister In the day when she is spoken for? 9 If she is a wall, We will build upon her A battlement of silver; And if she is a door, We will enclose her With boards of cedar. Song 8:8-9*
- Assessments must be made at the transition point. As parents watch their children grow they see if they are strong leaders or weak followers.
- They then condition their training to the needs and abilities of the children.

Raising Children Requires Wisdom

- All of these truths must be considered as we raise our children.
- The early years (before the age of twelve), we treat as a child, their words, thoughts and understanding are that of a child.
- Our training but take that into consideration.
- They are taught simple basic things that will move their understanding into spiritual and moral truths.
- The sooner we learn these things and put them into practice, the easier it will be to fulfill God's expectations.

The Wisdom Given by God

- *Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it Pr 22:6*
- *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4*
- *Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction. Pr. 19:18*
- *Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. 13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell. Pr. 23:12-14*