

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

The week of April 3rd

*Sunday's sermon & this homework can be found at gbcmt.org/sermons or on the GBC App

1. In the context of your own family (immediate or extended), how would you define the purpose of marriage both as a child growing up and now as an adult? _____

2. How can we answer the false claim that Genesis chapters 1 and 2 contradict in the sequence of creation? _____

3. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:7. What does it mean that we are created "in the image of God" with God's breath? Why is this important? _____

4. Evolution says humans are just physical (chemicals). How does the Bible disagree with this idea of "monism"? _____

5. Compare Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 26:39-42, and John 17:20-23. Do the Father and Jesus have identical wills? How are they one? _____

6. How can we as the Body of Christ grown in our "oneness"? What are some common causes of disunity in the Body? _____

7. What are some practical ways that you can promote unity in the Body of Christ at GBC? _____

8. Read Mal. 2:10, 13-16. In light of this passage, how does God view divorce? _____

9. How can man become one with God while living here on the earth? _____

10. What form will marriage take in eternity? _____

11. How do you plan to grow in Christlikeness as result of this week's truth? _____

Sermon Prep: Read Mark 14.

God Designed Marriage

Sermon Notes – Mark Amunrud (Elder)

Marriage was the first thing on God's mind after creation. Is marriage important to God? Is everyone supposed to be married?

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV) God's Creation Account

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.

Genesis 2:7, 18-25 (ESV) Adam's Account

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Questions Help Us Examine Scripture

1. Does the Bible contradict itself? The order of creation seems different in Genesis chapter 1 and 2. Atheists love this, but when we understand what it is actually saying we learn about marriage. Chapter one is a sequential creation account. Chapter two is a topical marriage account. God and Adam evaluate animals "made from the ground" to see if any would be an appropriate helper for Adam. None is appropriate.
 2. Was Adam made (from existing material) or created (from nothing)? Adam's body was made from the dust, but his life was given directly from God. The breath of God 'life' cannot be made from dust or chemicals.
 3. Are humans just chemicals?
According to evolution, humans should be 100% chemicals. Richard Dawkins says, "A dualist acknowledges a fundamental distinction between mind and matter. A monist, by contrast, believes that mind is a manifestation of matter. . . . A dualist believes the mind is some kind of disembodied spirit that *inhabits* the body and therefore could conceivably leave the body and exist somewhere else. . . . Like most scientists, I am not a dualist." (Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, Pages 209-210) The Bible disagrees.

4. Why did God create Marriage?

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall **become one** flesh. Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

5. Is being ONE important to God?

Deut. 6:4 (ESV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is **ONE**.”

6. What would heaven be like with three eternal, omnipotent Gods who were NOT ONE?

This is exactly what the Greek gods were, and heaven was a constant war.

7. What would it be like if humans were not ONE in heaven?

We must learn to love one another, forgive one another. . .

8. What was important to Jesus as he headed for the cross?

John 17:20-23 (ESV) “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be ONE, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be ONE even as we are ONE, I in them and you in me, that they may become PERFECTLY ONE, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

God wants humans to be ONE just like He and the father are one. Marriage is practice at being one with someone who thinks very differently.

9. What is divorce?

Malachi 2:10a, 13-16 (ESV) Have we not all ONE Father? Has not ONE God created us? . . . You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them ONE, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the ONE God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, **covers his garment with violence**, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

10. How important is it to be one?

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV) He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Marriage Is Great but Not Easy

Men and women think differently. It is challenging to think as ONE. However, this is essential practice for heaven when we all will be one.

11. How can the husband and wife think together?

Ephesians 5:33 Let the husband love the wife as himself. . . And let the wife see that she respects her husband.

MEN, it is logical to love your wife:

God requires it.

It helps your wife follow faithfully.

She is your helper – you are not good alone.

WOMEN, a relationship grows by respecting your husband:

It pleases God.

It helps your husband lead effectively.

Your purpose is to help, not lead.

Marriage is God's plan from the beginning.

It is also His plan for eternity.

Rev. 19:6-9 (ESV) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

AT ONE MENT: Sin separates us from God. How can we be one with God when sin separates us? Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross. He is our atonement (at – one – ment). Christ took our sins upon Himself so that those who believe in Him are justified by His grace. We can never obtain righteousness by our works. Righteousness is given as a gift to those who believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:21 – 26)

Being ONE is a two-way street. Both parties have to agree to be ONE. God has opened the door so that anyone who believes may come. He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Now the choice is yours. Are you willing to be ONE with God? Are you willing to repent of evil and turn away from it? Are you willing to forgive those who have sinned against you? If you are not willing to be One, then the other choice is to be alone.

AL ONE: Sin not only separates us from God, it also separates us from each other. Those who refuse to be ONE eventually become ALONE (one separated from all others).

God has promised resurrection to all, good and evil. His plan is for humans to live eternally. He has provided the atonement so that we can live as ONE with Him as the bride of the Lamb. This offer is freely available to all who repent of their sin and believe in Jesus. Those who refuse this salvation are destined to an eternity of destruction. There will be many in hell, but they are all alone, not united.

ONE: God was ONE from eternity past. The first thought on His mind after creation was for a man and a woman become ONE. Jesus' prayer on the way to the cross was for all to be perfectly ONE. The marriage of the Lamb is the fulfillment of that prayer.