

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians  
Lesson 18 “Overview of Biblical Marriage”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the *Ephesians* focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

D. Over the next few weeks, we are going to talk about the first institution God ever created; the family.

1. God created the family before He created the church or civil government.
2. If we want to see revival sustain and accelerate, its incumbent on us as believers to learn how to do marriage and parenting right. The family has come under attack, but it was the institution God created to reveal His glory throughout the earth.
3. In ancient Israel's history, there was a link between idolatry and sexual immorality. The devil still uses the same tactics today to attack the church and end revivals today so it's important to get this right. Recent example: IHOP

E. 3 Principles before we get into the word:

1. The number one key to having a healthy marriage and family is having a great relationship with Jesus. You can do that even if you have a difficult spouse or kids. Don't blame others for your behavior, draw on Jesus's grace.
2. While we can sow good seed and pray for our spouse and kids, we cannot control them. They have free will so don't get into condemnation if they make bad choices.
3. If you've messed up in the past or are messing up currently in the areas of marriage/parenting, there is no condemnation. Forgive yourself. If some of what we study is hard, repent, forgive yourself, and draw on Jesus's grace to obey.

II. Overview of Biblical Marriage

### A. Ephesians 5:21-33

1. This passage comes right after the passage about being filled with the spirit. That's not an accident. It takes the Holy Spirit to have a great marriage!
2. The key to understanding this passage is **verses 31-32**. The mystery of marriage is revealed in Jesus. Marriage is a picture of how Christ relates to the church. We must first understand how Christ relates to us, in order to relate to our spouse properly.
3. What is God's picture of marriage? What does it look like? How does it work? He's the author, He needs to define it. Everything identified by its picture.
4. If I say "dog" same word, we all have different pictures.

### C. Genesis 1:26-28 Original Picture of Man

1. Man created in God's image and likeness
2. Let them - man is male and female - **Divine Prototype. Genesis 5:1-2**
3. Divine Prototype - God is a God of order and divine design. Adam was God's original picture of man, and all men would be identified after him.
4. Satan distorted the picture of Adam and marriage when he caused Adam to sin. Jesus came to restore the picture.
5. **God blessed them (male and female - Eve not created yet - inside Adam).**

### D. Genesis 2:18-25

1. **Verse 18** "not good to be alone" - who's idea? Helper - Help meet (Hebrew) one of your own kind to help, aid, and protect.
2. **Verses 19-20** Why bring all the animals?
  - a. To show Adam his need (two verses one) - Adam was too dense to realize He needed a wife without God's help.
  - b. To reveal His plan (male and female).
3. **Verses 21-22** Rib (Hebrew) - other side, hidden side, support - side of the tabernacle - picture of Jesus as the foundation and the church is the side for the structure He is building for His glory to rest upon. Wive's are called to a support for their husband. This is often why we are different and why opposites attract.
4. **Verse 23** Eve was taken out of man.
  - a. **Genesis 5:1-2** *He created them male and female, and blessed them*
  - b. **Genesis 1:26** *let them have dominion - In Him was them.*
5. **Verses 24-25** In marriage, we are as one as they were in creation. **Ties back to Ephesians 5:31-32 and Mark 10:7-9.**

### III. Prophetic Picture (Duane Sheriff)

A. When Jesus came to earth, He was alone, not lonely and needed a help-meet. **One of His own kind, helper, partner.**

B. God brought all humanity before Jesus to find a help-mate suitable.

1. Pharisees – wouldn't receive. Too caught up in themselves and dead religion.
2. Sadducees - Didn't believe in the resurrection. God wouldn't have his son marry a bride that didn't believe in the resurrection.
3. Gentiles – Syrophenician woman a dog. Jesus couldn't find a suitable help-mate. **NOT ONE FOUND**
4. Since God couldn't find a suitable helpmate for Jesus - He made one out of Him. He opened Jesus's side on the cross, the same way He opened Adam's side.
5. Jesus into a deep sleep for 3 days in tomb. Adam was put into a deep sleep.
6. Built Eve out of Adam, the same way church built out of Jesus - **Matthew 16**
7. He made a bride for Jesus (church) and brought that bride to Him.
8. Leave and cleave – leave dead religion and cleave to Jesus - come boldly to the throne of grace.

#### IV. Conclusion

A. We need to see ourselves as one with our spouse as we do with Jesus! We need to learn how Jesus relates to us (never condemns us, affirms us in our identity, comes to serve) so we can properly relate to our spouse.

B. Over the next couple of weeks, we'll look at the husband and wife's role in the marriage, but tonight I want to establish the importance of unity and how one we are with our spouse in the overview. This must be the foundation if we are to have healthy marriages!

C. Call Up Prayer Team and Pray Closing Prayer (pray for unity)

D. Offering Verse: **Luke 6:38**