

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

June 11, 2023

God's Work

The hardest thing to establish, even for me many times, is to keep God’s intent for marriage in its rightful place when emotions denominate the atmosphere. What I mean by rightful place is remaining focused on God’s agenda for marriage, no matter how vulnerable that may make you feel. Many times, it’s hard to keep the brain working when our emotions are high. Our emotions tend to dethrone God sometimes in a New York minute.

Interestingly, God never focused on Adam being in love with Eve. He did not even give Adam a choice as to whether he would want Eve to be his wife. God controlled everything. What is interesting is this marriage lasted for 930 years. What is interesting is that nowhere in Genesis, after they sinned, is there any record that they ever desired a divorce or separation or did not get along. They had Cain and Abel and more kids, so they had to be together. Despite having a sinful nature, they accepted God’s agenda and lived in it faithfully.

Marriage is first about what God desires for us to do as we live in His institution rather than what we can get out of it or what we want the other person to do for us. When marriage is built on what the other spouse can do to make us feel loved, happy or fulfilled, marriage often fails to reach our expectations. It is when each person commits to grow spiritually is when what we want becomes a reality; “love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23; NASB). These are all attributes that we desire to experience in marriage. This is why marriage is first a commitment to Christ (Deuteronomy 23:21-23) before it can truly be a fulfilling experience that each person enjoys.

The next couple of the Bible, however, had challenges. Abraham and Sarah, like Adam and Eve, were provided an agenda that God called them to. Abraham struggled to accept God’s agenda when God took a long time to fulfill it (Genesis 15:1-6), and so did Sarah. When God’s agenda was replaced for a time by Hagar, Abraham and Sarah’s marriage struggled (Genesis 21:9-21). The home was full of tension, and challenges that continue to the present between (Jews and Arabs).

Marriage works well when we allow the Lord to be greater than our impatience, selfish desires, and passion to prove how right we are; basically, we have less of a commitment to the flesh and more to our spiritual development. It seems easier to think of what we want than ‘Lord, what can I do to bring You glory.’ This requires more work, but it provides the greatest results; the fruit of the Spirit produces enjoyable lasting relationships (Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:1-17).

We need to focus less on making our marriages work and more on how God can complete His work in us (Ephesians 5:15-21, 25-27).



UPCOMING Events



L.E.G.I.T. YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE
Join the L.E.G.I.T. Young Adult Ministry for the Be Intentional Conference Saturday, July 8, 2023 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. This Conference will feature and afternoon and evening of fun, food, fellowship, be intentional workshops, speakers, dinner provided, Exalt the King, Drama Ministry presentation, and much more! Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITConference2023>



BOWLING WITH L.E.G.I.T.
Join us for a night of bowling with the Young Adults, Saturday June 24th at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to register! You don’t want to miss this chance to fellowship with one another. Register at <https://bit.ly/LEGITBowling> For more information, contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
Join us for the Center For Christian Living every **Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.** starting June 13th and ending July 25th. This reformatted CFCL will focus on topics related to the theme for the year, which is “BE INTENTIONAL” There will be classes for women, men, 55+ adults, adults, young adults, youth and kids. For more information visit www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/center-christian-living



KINGDOM BUILDERS MEN’S MINISTRY BE INTENTIONAL DISCUSSIONS
Join the Kingdom Builder’s Men’s Ministry for their BE INTENTIONAL Discussion series. The next session is **Saturday June 17, 2023 from 9 am 2 pm** For more information contact **Ian Moore** at ianmoores@gmail.com



USHERS & GREETERS MONTHLY MEETING & FELLOWSHIP
Serve In Excellence With The Ushers & Greeters. Join Them In Fellowship Every 3rd Saturday At 10:00 A.M. The Next Meeting Will Be **Saturday June 17, 2023**. For More Information Contact **Lula Hayes** at lulahays1@yahoo.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Well Designed”
Genesis 2:15-18

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Infants—6th grade

LEGACY **MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL** **TUESDAY NIGHTS**
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMOROWS **WEDNESDAY**
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP **6:30 PM**

Well Designed
Genesis 2:15-18

A. The Blueprint (vs. 15-17):

- 1. The 'Lord God' is mentioned because 'the Lord' (Christ) set everything in place because all things are through Him (Colossians 1:15-18), yet God is sovereign over all and controls all that is taking place in the Garden.
- 2. God, who is over all things, actively summons Adam putting him into a state of being. "Put" here is in the imperfect meaning; Adam's stay in the Garden was to be forever.
- 3. God gathered Adam without his permission and left him in the Garden of Eden. Adam did not resist and was very open to God's direction.
- 4. Adam did not just have to work in paradise; he had to develop it.
- 5. Adam was given purpose when told that his obligation was to guard with careful attention the Garden of Eden (this is shared with his wife; 1 Tim 5:14 – whatever he establishes, the wife preserves when he goes off to work because this is one of the man's major responsibilities - God did not tell Eve to preserve the Garden He told Adam – Adam let satan in).
- 6. A man proves his Biblical manhood when God leads him (Genesis 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 11:2-3). The Word of God must always rule (Ephesians 5:25-27).
- 7. Adam had more freedom than restrictions (John 8:32-33).
- 8. It is obvious how the reality of man knowing good and evil even continues when a person is a believer as they wrestle between the flesh and the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17).
- 9. God taught Adam this lesson before he made Eve (Ephesians 5:26; 1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:35-37). Man is supposed to be the spiritual leader (Ephesians 5:25-26).
- 10. The man brought death into the world (Genesis 3:6-7). Notice it is when the man ate the fruit 'then' their eyes were open (Romans 5:12-15). God taught Adam about the tree before He gave him Eve.
- 11. God is life; everything outside of God is, therefore, death (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:16-17).

B. It Is Good (v. 18):

- 1. Again success depends on submitting to God's plan.
- 2. Marriage must come under God's authority. It is a non-bias plan that blesses both individuals.
- 3. A woman makes a man more vigorous and more productive for God (Proverbs 18:22). By finding a wife, a man obtains favor from God, and to mistreat a wife, a man's prayer is blocked (1 Peter 3:7), and he can suffer financial consequences (Malachi 2:13-14).
- 4. The man would endlessly be alone because he cannot make kids (1 Corinthians 11:11-12).
- 5. The man would not be as productive based on God's original intent (Genesis 1:26-28).
- 6. The fashioning of the woman is all based on God's creative order (1 Corinthians 11:8-10).
- 7. Eve as a wife, comes from the man's side, not his feet. This is why submission is not obedience.
- 8. Adam lived for 930 years, had other children, and never saw a divorce court (Genesis 5:3-5).
- 9. Where God said He would make Adam "a help meet for him," or someone to correspond to him, just as the males and females of the animals corresponded to (matched) one another - the phrase "before one's face" is paralleled to "in one's own eyes" (Isa 5:21; cf. Ps 90:8), and is opposite to "secretly" (2 Sam 12:12; cf. Ps 38:9 [H 10]).
- 10. Designated assistant who will be a source of help providing divine aid both physically and spiritually (1 Timothy 5:9-10).
- 11. A helper has to be as strong as the one being helped (Genesis 1:26-28; Holy Spirit to Christ – John 14:16).
- 12. A helper is the opposite but matches the one being helped (Genesis 2:23).
- 13. Even though equal, she is led by her husband (Genesis 3:16; 1 Corinthians 11:2-3).
- 14. Her marriage role is only for her husband. God will shape each individual to work together succinctly when they are first under His authority.

WHEN IT COMES TO MARRIAGE, MAN'S WILL IS NOT A PART OF THE PICTURE.
When it comes to whether or not a person follows God's will, they have free will, but NOT ON HOW MARRIAGE WORKS.





New Members Orientation 2023

CLASSES ARE 8AM-12PM EACH WEEK

SUNDAY JULY 2 & 9
SUNDAY AUGUST 6 & 13
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3 & 10
SUNDAY OCTOBER 1 & 8
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 & 12
NO CLASSES IN DECEMBER

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER CONTACT PASTOR DUANE LAWRENCE AT DLAWRENCE@LWFELLOWSHIPCHURCH.ORG



Love Faith Hope
Jesus Faith Hope
Faith grateful

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Tomitra Wiley & family, Pastor Cannings & family, Byron Grand & family, Pastor Lawrence & family, Wayne Jackson & family, Nord Bullock & family, Michelle Lewis & family, Moniqua Glasper & family, Clifford Jackson, Jr. & family, and Susie Farley & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakesia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Betty Goode, Latifah Brown, Tanisha Collins, Eric Prichett, Rufus Hadnot, Pat James, Kevin Carey, Lori Lee, Nikisha Doyle, Jessie Austin, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Williams, Betty Cunningham, Wanda Turk, Deborah Smith, Dorothy Price, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Yvette Ford, Calvin Wilson, Diane Ford, Patrice Terell, Patsy Gatterson, and Rita Hughes.



Genesis 2:15-18