

For the Week Beginning May 22, 2022

## “Imitators of Jesus in Marriage”

✠ **Genesis 1:26-28, 2:16-25, 3:14-19; and Ephesians 5:31-33**

### Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

### Genesis 2:16-25

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;<sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called 'woman,'  
for she was taken out of man."

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.<sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

<sup>24</sup> For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

### Genesis 3:14-19

<sup>14</sup> So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock  
and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing;  
with pain you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat of it  
all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."

### Ephesians 5:31-33

<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### ✠ Memory Verses: Matthew 19:5-6

<sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

### ✠ Opening Question:

- Why do people marry today? What advice would you give a person looking for a spouse?

### ✠ The Living Word: Read Genesis 1:26-28, 2:16-25, 3:14-19; and Ephesians 5:31-33

- Highlight words or phrases that stand out to you.
  - Please narrate using your own words.
1. Science suggests humans grew by the random effects of natural selection from a chaotic primordial soup. Does Genesis 1:26-28 contradict this? List any contradictions to the scientific theory.
  2. In Genesis 1:28 God places a blessing of command on the humans like the blessing he places on birds and fish in verse 22, what is it? What does this suggest about the importance of the command?
  3. What is the difference between the marriage advice you may have discussed in the opening question and the marriage in verses 22-23?
  4. In 3:16 we understand the word "desire" to mean a "longing to control" (based on its similar and sinister use in Genesis 4:7) and the word "rule" means to master or subdue with the idea that there will be a struggle to accomplish it. Read the text with the meaning of these words fixed understanding that they come in the form of the cursed result of sin. What does this tell you about the potential difficulties in the relationship between a husband and wife?
  5. In Ephesians 5: 31, Paul quotes Genesis 2:24, what significance does he apply to it when describing the unveiling of a mystery?
  6. How does Paul instruction in Ephesians 5:33 relate to Genesis 3:16?

### ✠ Living the Word:

- How can we be or give instruction to be Imitators of Christ in marriage?
- Discuss how being Imitators of Christ in marriage can impact the world?