

A tree with green and yellow leaves is shown with its roots growing out of an open, aged book. The book is positioned at the bottom of the frame, and the tree's trunk and branches rise from it. The background is a light, warm tone.

Bringing the Bible to Life
Biblical Counseling Workshops

The Purpose of Marriage

Track V.1

Kent Kloter

Associate Pastor of Biblical
Counseling



What is Marriage? (wikipedia)

Although the institution of marriage pre-dates reliable recorded history, many cultures have legends concerning the origins of marriage. The way in which a marriage is conducted and its rules and ramifications has changed over time, as has the institution itself, depending on the culture or demographic of the time.

Hobhouse, Leonard Trelawny (1906) *Morals in evolution: a study in comparative ethics* (Page 180)



What is Marriage? (wikipedia)

"Marriage is a relationship established between a woman and one or more other persons, which provides that a child born to the woman under circumstances not prohibited by the rules of the relationship, is accorded full birth-status rights common to normal members of his society or social stratum"

Gudeman, Stephen, (1976) *Relationships, residence and the individual*, p. 131.

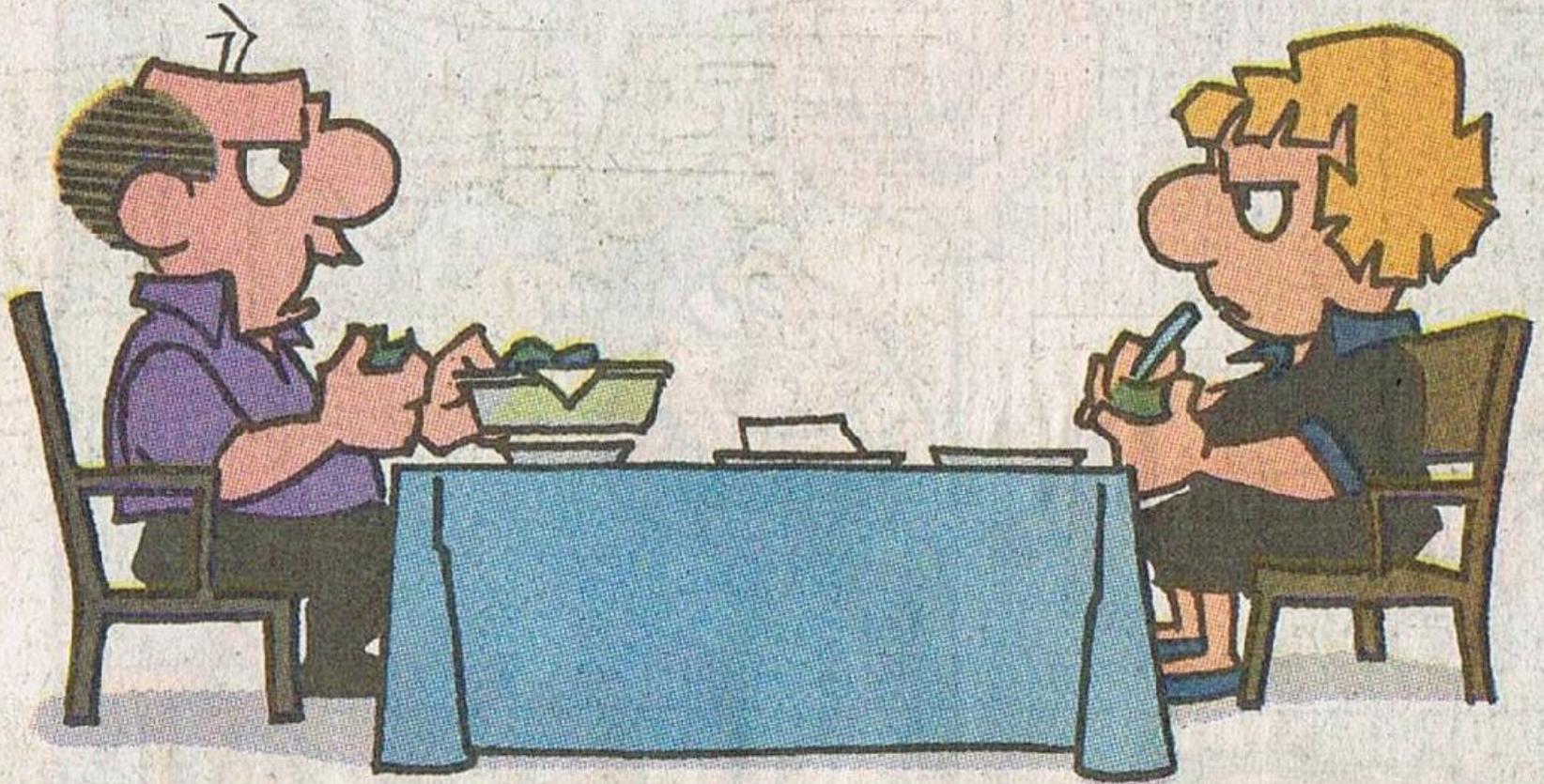


Why Marry?

Best Answer - (Yahooanswers) *“its been like this for ages and benefits men more than women.....back in the early days of marriage, men would come to villages and steal daughters and make them work on the fields for them etc. eventually this was not tolerated by the fathers of these daughters and sometimes they would run away so it became more civilized..... they would have children so they had labours to work on their fields.” familia in latin means slave*



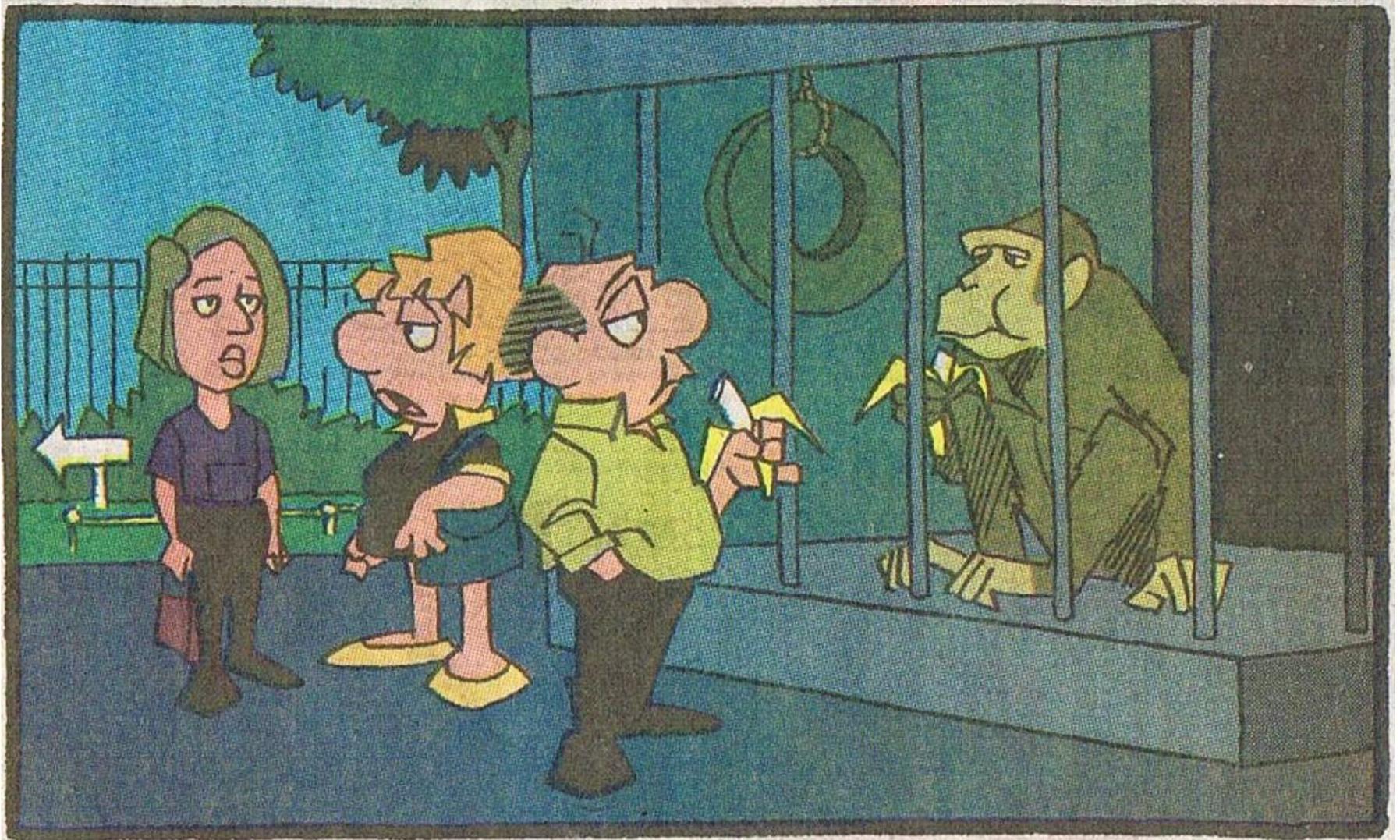
Why Get Married, if it's like...



"THESE ROLLS WOULD SET OFF A METAL DETECTOR."



Why Get Married, if it's like...



"IN LEROY'S CASE, ALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE ANIMALS IS BARS."



Why Marriage? “A host of federal benefits”

tax benefits; right to file jointly

Legal status with stepchildren

joint parenting rights

family visitation rights for spouse & non-biological children, next-of-kin status-emergency decisions/
wrongful death claims

Survivor benefits

Automatic recipient of life insurance for some jobs

Tax-free transfer of property between spouses
(including on death) and exemption from "due-on-sale" clauses.



Why Marriage? “A host of benefits”

Marriage promotes the common good by building families and raising children... from the utilitarian perspective, there is no question that marriage is good for society: Children, women, and men all benefit enormously... there is a wealth of evidence that children living in two-parent homes are better off than those in single-parent families... Studies show that wives are 30 percent more likely to rate their health excellent or good than single women of the same age. In addition, married women (and men) are less likely to suffer long-term chronic illness or disabilities than single women. And mortality rates are less than one-third as high among married women as among non-married women. ” R. Santorum



Why Marriage? “A host of benefits”

“...marriage benefits men significantly and serves as a civilizing influence on them. ..single men have almost six times the probability of being incarcerated

men who live with their biological children are more involved in the community and service organizations, more connected to their own siblings, adult children, and aging parents.

Fathers living with their children invest more hours per week in work and careers than non-fathers.

Married men make 25 percent more money than single men,... two-parent families are five times less likely to be in poverty than single-parent families. Their health and quality of life also improve with marriage. Mortality rates are 2/3's as high among married men as among single men. Married men (and women) are less than half as likely as their divorced counterparts to attempt suicide.” R. Santorum



The Beginning (Genesis 2 ESV)

Cannot define what marriage is without looking at the origin of humanity.

⁷then 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...



Created, Designed by God

Reflector (image of God) **Identity, purpose**

Relational (vertical, internal, horizontal, external) **social**

Receiver (needing revelation from God, i.e. His Word)

Reasoning (Logical, rational, considering) **intellectual**

Responder (Worshipper, servant) **spiritual, purpose, volitional**

Righteous (pure) **spiritual**

Reliant (dependant, NOT AUTONOMOUS)

Ruler (Dominion-haver) **purpose**

Representative (Ambassador) **purpose**

The primary human relationship is with GOD!



Marriage - Created & Designed by God

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is **not good** that the man **should be alone**; I will make him a **helper fit for him.**” ²⁰...for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So 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.
(Gen. 2:18-21 ESV)

Marriage was created to be a pure, life-long, **one-flesh, covenant-relationship of companionship** [male wasn't designed to live without the female] **& completion** [female was designed to complete the male] for the purpose of **“Image-bearing”**.



Marriage – Created & Designed by God

²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then 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.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Gen. 2:22-25 ESV)



Marriage - God's Plan from the Beginning

Created male **AND** female

First Divine institution; **the second, most important relationship – the family;** the foundation of all other institutions in society.

God's view of marriage – *“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good** [pure]. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”*

(Genesis 1:31 ESV)



Purpose of Marriage

Marriage is designed by God for mutual companionship, to **COMPLEMENT** each other in a one-flesh-**UNITY** of “Chosen-servanthood” to reflect the “**Image-of-God**”. [i.e., to **GLORIFY GOD** by “Giving others a ‘right-opinion’ of God”].

Unity—Diversity—Community

Equality—Authority—Submission

Independance-Dependance

Trinity

God is creator – man is creative

God is sovereign, man is to “take dominion”

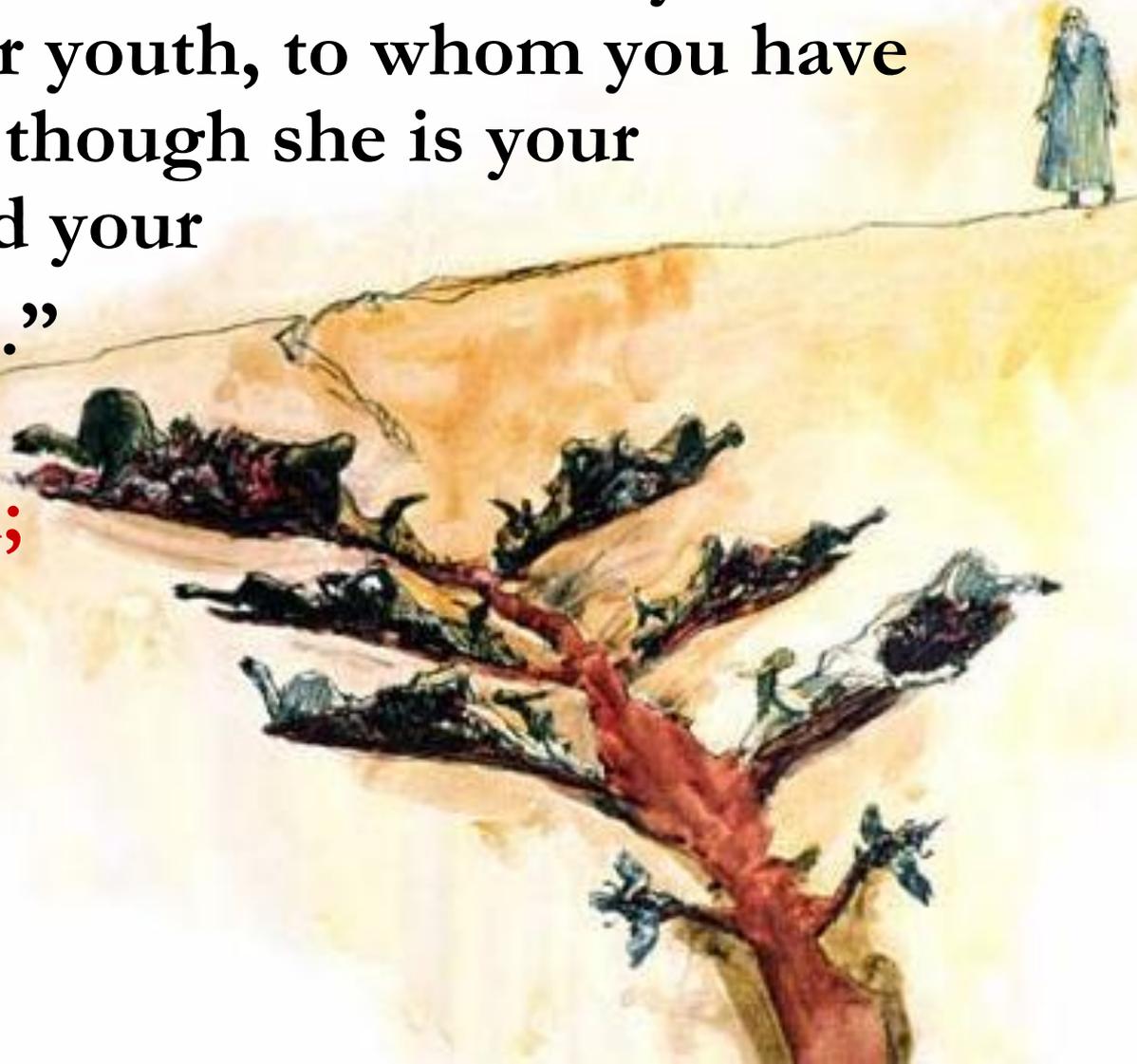


Covenant-Companionship

“...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.**”

(Malachi 2:14-15 ESV)

**“a bond in blood;
A life & death
commitment of
companionship”**





Purpose of Marriage - One-flesh Union

Spiritual – theologically unified

Physical – sexual oneness, intimacy

Emotional – seeking emotional fulfillment in your spouse, not in another person of the opposite sex.

Relational – companionship, friendship

Mental – thinking of your spouse as your primary soul-mate

Resulting in security, satisfaction, contentment



Purpose of Marriage – Godly Children

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ...” (Genesis 1:28 ESV)

“...the wife of your youth, ...she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he [GOD] 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. (Malachi 2:14-15 ESV)



The Purpose of Godly Children?

To Worship & glorify the Most High God

**“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things, and by your
will they existed and were created.”**

(Revelation 4:11 ESV)

(see also Mt. 4:4-10; Jn. 4.22)

**To be Disciples (Mt.28:19-20) & Ambassadors
for Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-21) by Glorifying
(Is.43:7; 2 Co. 10:31) and Pleasing (2 Co. 5:9)
God with their lives.**



Purpose of Marriage – Foundation of Society

The family is the building-block of society

The family is the foundational unit for molding, training, disciplining, & teaching children how to become more like Christ, (love God, love people).



Purpose of Marriage – Dominion

The family is the foundational institution of society.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “... fill the earth and subdue it, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

(Genesis 1:28 ESV; see also Ps. 8:6-8)



Purpose of Marriage

Sexual Exclusivity & Pleasure

¹...“It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

(1 Corinthians 7:1-5 ESV)

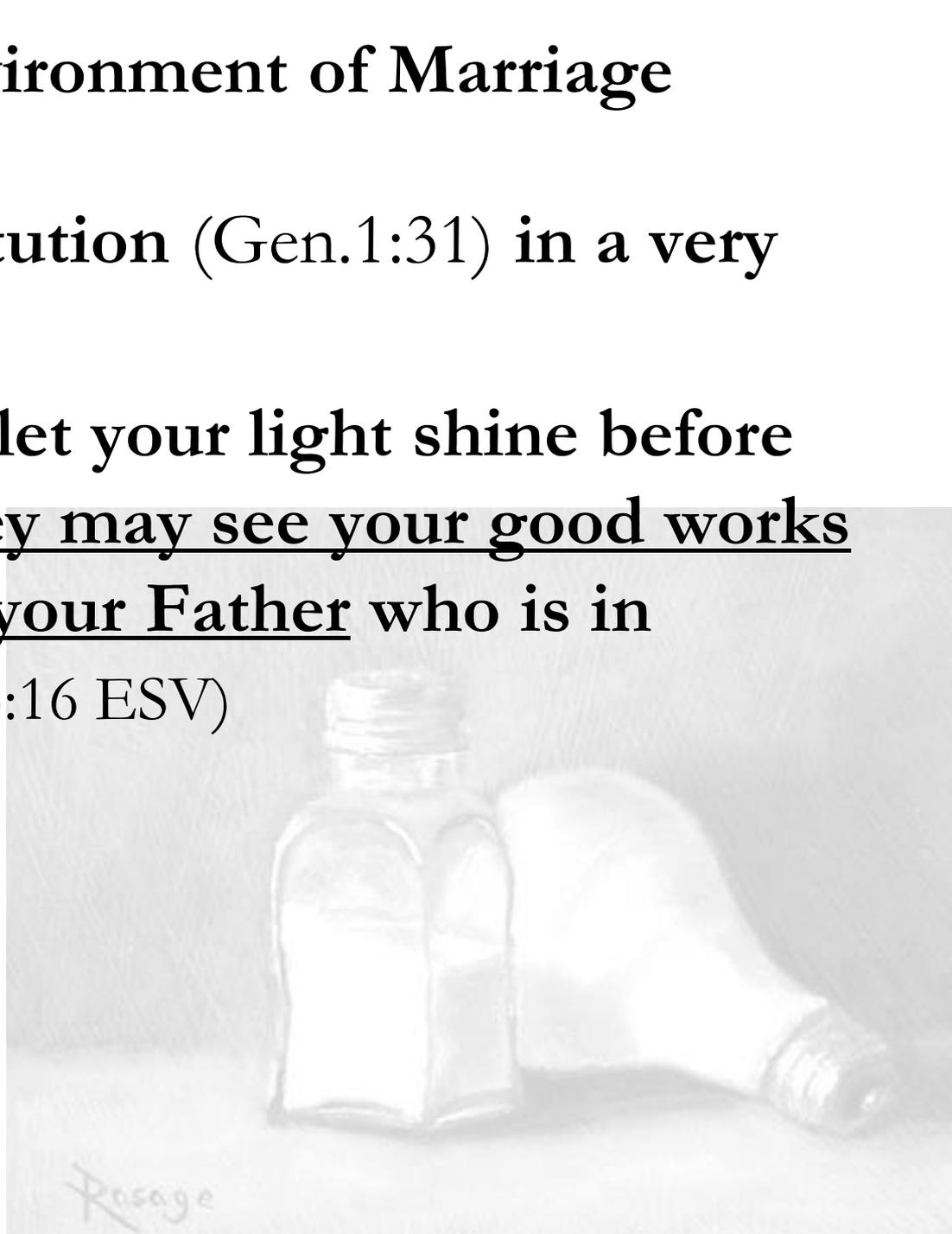


The Environment of Marriage

A “very good” institution (Gen.1:31) in a very broken world.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 ESV)

The environment is
also God’s DESIGN
Acts 17:26





“Set on the Stage” of a Broken World

Knowing this is foundational to preparing and persevering in the battle for God’s glory in marriage;

Growing more like Christ (Eph.4-6); Growing in one-flesh relationship (Col.3:19-ff); Growing in ruling/taking dominion (Ps.8:3-9); Growing in parenting/shepherding (Eph.6:1-2)

*“Your worst circumstance (this just might be your marriage) is **God’s greatest tool for sanctification in your life.**” Marriage is God’s **primary venue for your sanctification.***



If God is Going to Get Glory...

You must be saved, born-again, made new
(Jn.3:3; 2 Cor. 5:9-21)

You must be being-transformed (Rom.12:1-3),
dying to selfishness (Mt.16:24), **seeking**
God's glory and your spouse's good.
(Rom.8:28-29)

You must be growing and changing to
become more like Christ. (Lu.6:40; Col.1:28;
Rom.8:29; Ja.1:3-4)

Your spouse is a sinner, purpose to grow in
Christ-like love towards him/her.



Marriage in a Broken World is designed to *TEMPER YOU!*

In this [promised eternal blessings] you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **grieved** by various **trials**, **so that** the **tested** [tempered] genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

Plan for grief, trials, testing [tempered, refined] in this broken world.

I am a better husband and father, and a happier man, when I recognize myself as the worst of sinners. D. Harvey, When Sinners Say I Do



Marriage in a Broken World is designed to ***TEMPER YOU!***

Likewise, wives...husbands... (1 Pet. 3:1-7)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Peter 4:12 ESV)

*“Marriage is a **personal holiness paradigm...to rescue you from you**”* Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect?*, p. 22

Your spouse is God’s instrument of sanctification in your life. You are called to personify the Gospel to him/her, regardless of how much you’ve been sinned against.



Marriage puts the Gospel on Display

Marriage is a living “play-act” of the relationship between Christ and His Church. “²³the husband is the head of the wife *even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Ephesians 5:22-24 ESV)

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...” 2
Corinthians 5:20



Marriage puts God & the Gospel on Display

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.* He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, *just as Christ does the church,* ³⁰because we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:25-30 ESV)



Marriage puts God & the Gospel on Display

In loving the sinner, without regard to the other's performance as you live out the Gospel thru...

Seeking oneness with someone **unlike yourself**

Self-denial - humility

Submission - meekness

Service – showing mercy & compassion

Suffering - forgiving

Self-sacrifice – loving without record-keeping



Marriage Gives Language and Experience to Understand God and Redemption

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. (Psalm 19:5 ESV)

**For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you. (Is. 62:5
ESV)**



Committed to the Plan, Show Christ's Love

God's love is dependant on His Sacrifice

God's grace/mercy is dependant on Christ's work/performance, NOT YOURS

God's love NEVER fails, because it's dependant upon Christ's perfect performance and perfect payment/sacrifice.

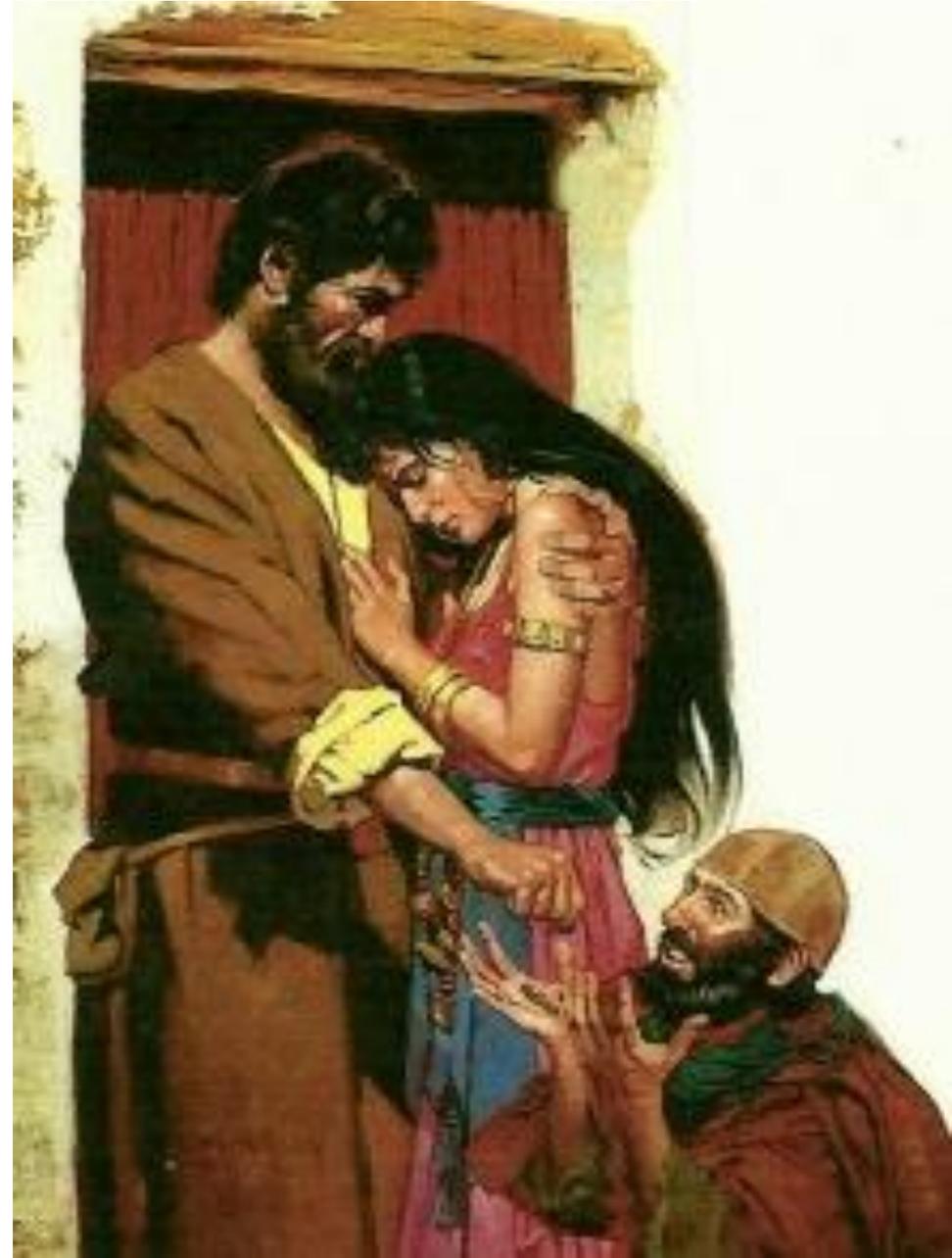
The Holy Spirit invades & pursues to CHANGE YOU to become like Christ; God is a pursuing God

Compatibility is achieved by CHRIST; you are NOT compatible with holiness; you cannot use compatibility as an excuse not to love, pursue, forgive, grant mercy, grace, etc.



Marriage in a Broken World

**Hosea and Gomer
Marriage, and even
adultery is real-life
experience that gives
us language and
emotion to help us
understand the
character of God,
mercy, grace,
forgiveness, & love.**





Marriage Gives Language and Experience to Understand God and Redemption

“The durability and quality *of* your marriage is not ultimately based on the strength of your commitment *to* your marriage. Rather, it’s based on something completely *apart from* your marriage; God’s truth; truth we find plain and clear on the pages of Scripture.” The gospel is the heart of the Bible. Everything in Scripture is either preparation *for* the gospel, presentation *of* the gospel, or participation *in* the gospel. In the life, death and resurrection of Christ, the gospel provides an ultimate solution for our sin—for today, for tomorrow, for the day we stand before God, and forever.

Dave Harvey, *When Sinners Say I Do*, page 23-24
(emphasis, author’s)



Homework

- Summarize your main take-aways from this session, especially noting any areas that were either unclear to you or that you might disagree



Going Deeper

- *When Sinners Say "I Do"* Dave Harvey
- *What Did You Expect* Paul Tripp
- *Exemplary Husband* Stuart Scott
- *Excellent Wife* Martha Peace

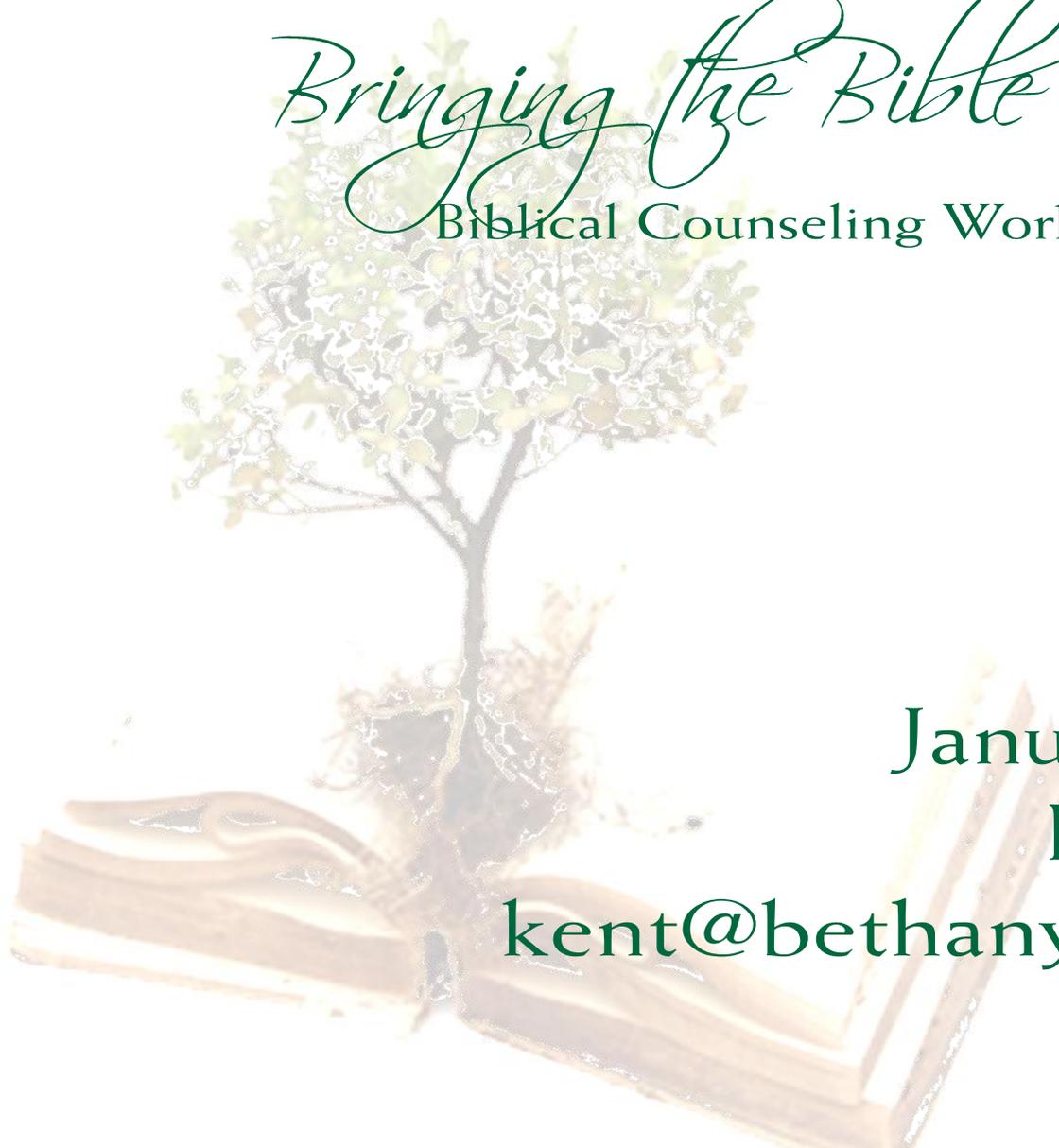


Next Classes

Track V.2 *The Husband's Role* – Kevin Martin

**Track V.3 *The Wife's Role* – Kevin & Sara
Martin**

**Track V.4 *Bringing the Roles Together* – Kent
Kloter**

A tree with green and yellow leaves is growing out of an open book. The tree's trunk and roots are visible, with the roots extending into the pages of the book. The background is a light, warm yellow.

Bringing the Bible to Life

Biblical Counseling Workshops

January 9, 2012

Kent Kloter

kent@bethanycentral.org

508-1755