

## ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS PART II: WHY MARRIAGE?

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### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. At present the fundamental concepts of morality are being questioned; post-modernism tries to redefine everything as if we had to reinvent it because it no longer works but **the principles of the Word of God are absolute, not relative and are eternal.**
- B. People may think that marriage is a mere social convenience, that it is better to get together, have sex and children without marrying but **God established marriage as a sacred covenant that serves as the foundation to sustain the family and ultimately the church and society itself.** If there is no foundation, the structures crack.
- C. Today we are going to see how God created marriage. Marriage was not an idea of man nor was it the product of evolution in which societies came to a conclusion after a process of trial and error but was instituted by God, the Creator of all. **The biblical text of the first marriage describes a very particular story that surprises with its details and sequence.**

### II. THE FIRST WEDDING IN HISTORY

**Gen. 2:18-24** ***"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him"... <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 then 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> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."***

- A. **v.18a** ***"The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone"*** This phrase is very disconcerting, the man was not alone, the same Trinity was with him! **God is perfect and fully sufficient to supply all of our needs but he created man to be complemented.** It is as if God said: 'Adam did a very good work in you but you have missing a part so that you are complete and I am going to create it for you.'
- B. **v.18b** ***"I will make a helper suitable for him"*** La NBV dice: ***"I am going to make him a companion who will be of help to him in all his needs."*** Man's "loneliness" was an impediment to his fullness. Even though God talked and walked with Adam in the beauty of the Garden of Eden, he still needed a suitable or appropriate help. That is, there were a series of needs that God had put in Adam that He was not going to meet but the woman that He was about to create. **God designed marriage as a place where men and women find the expression and satisfaction of the characteristics and needs of their gender.** God designed men and women with certain basic needs.

1. **Affective:** Human beings have the basic need to love and be loved.
2. **Of companionship:** We are social beings, we need a family and friends. Deep down we long for closeness and belonging.
3. **Sexual:** We have an innate need to enjoy an intimate relationship that is exclusive. This need is not bad, but it is perverted when it gets out of God's order.
4. **Protection and Provision:** The natural instinct of man is to protect or defend and that of woman to be protected. God has placed within man the desire to provide for his own and that gives woman a sense of security.
5. **Fatherhood and motherhood:** We have the innate desire to be fathers and mothers, have children and raise them in a home where there is stability.

**The basic emotional needs of men and women find their full satisfaction in the context of marriage and family.** God's intention is for man and women to be complementary, not contrary. As we saw it, the competition for gender superiority came after the fall. (Gn. 3:16).

- C. **v.21** ***"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 then closed up the place with flesh."*** God could have created woman in thousands of ways, however He decided to follow a process that might seem unnatural but had a very specific purpose: God anesthetized Adam and took out a rib from his side and from that rib he formed a woman. Perhaps in our logical thinking we would suppose that God could have created a woman and somehow had sons and daughters from her but it was not like that; the first female came out of the male. **God had an intention to create first Adam and then Eve not as a matter of inferiority but of order. (1 Tim. 1:13).**
- 1 Cor. 11:11-12** ***"Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. <sup>12</sup> For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God."*** (NIV)
- D. **v.22** ***"hen the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man."*** God made **a woman**, He did not make an asexual being so that Adam would define what kind of gender variation he would have wanted his partner to be. The fact that God did not create another man should not escape our attention, because this is the pattern that God was establishing in all of creation. It is also important to note that **God did not make many women but only one** because Adam did not need many but the exclusivity and intimacy of a covenant relationship. **Here the first wedding in the history of mankind took place when the Father brought the woman to the man.**
- E. **v.23** ***"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."*** Although Adam did not know what had happened because he was asleep when Eve was created, **when he sees her, he recognizes that she is a part of himself, that she is made of the same thing as him and even gives her identity by saying: I'm going to call you a woman.** (ish • ishah), that is, you are similar to me; my partner. **In the whole biblical context, giving a name to something or someone is a sign of authority and belonging.**

- F. **v.24 "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."** This verse begins with the preposition **"therefore ..."** clarifying that **since God created marriage in this particular way, God's purpose and the nature of marriage and family must be like this:**
1. **A man:** Here is a defined masculine gender; the male as such with a fixed identity that grows up in the context of a family made up of a father and a mother; not two dads or moms but a couple with the ability to parent children. **Much of the value that fathers and mothers place on their children is due to the fact that they are different.** As a male father, the male brings a very special contribution to the work of fatherhood that a mother cannot; and in the same way, a mother, like the female part, impacts the life and development of the child in a special way:
    - a) **Dads and moms play differently:** Fathers tend to play with children while mothers tend to take care of them. Dads are a little rough while moms are more delicate.
    - b) **Dads are riskier and moms promote safety:** Dads encourage children to swing harder and climb higher while moms encourage not to go as fast or as high. This difference is essential for children. **Either of these two parenting styles without balance is inappropriate.**
    - c) **Dads and moms prepare the child in different ways to face life.** What motivates mothers the most in their motherhood? In general the things that could hurt their child (accidents, illnesses, strange people, potential dangers, etc.) Dads tend to focus on how their children will be prepared for what they may encounter in the world (teasing, fights, being nervous in front of the opposite sex, sports training, etc.).
    - d) **Dads provide men's perspective of the world, moms provide women's perspective of the world.** Girls who lived with a married father and mother are more likely to have healthy relationships with boys during their adolescence and with men in their adulthood because they have learned from their male fathers how men should treat women appropriately and the same happens with the young men.
  2. **That leaves father and mother.** From the beginning God established to leave the vital relationship of the parents so that this new family could be given. The reason why a man must leave his father and her mother has to do with Eve's origin in Adam: since she comes from man, she must unite with her husband to regain their original unity
  3. **To unite with his wife:** The exclusivity of the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is evident. He talks about joining a single woman not his women, this excludes polygamy and infidelity as something that could be normal or permissible.
  4. **To be one flesh:** It is as if God said: I took the woman from the man but the goal is for them to be one again, in spirit, soul and body. **The goal of marriage is for the two to be one to be whole.** According to this text, man must leave a union

as vital as that of his parents in order to establish a new union with his wife and the goal of this new union is to be one flesh. **It is worth mentioning that the children are not called to be one flesh with their parents but the husband is called to the wife because the couple is the priority in God's order.** All of this was confirmed by Jesus in the New Testament stating that it is an absolute value that should not be altered:

**Mat. 19:4-6 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<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 flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."**

### III. CONCLUSION

- A. Satan has challenged all these principles through marital infidelity, pornography, redefinition of genders and many other deceptions resulting in the disintegration of the family and the greatest social and moral crisis in history. Each of these aspects are key to the fulfillment of all members of the family. **Jesus calls us to preserve God's original plan.**

**Mat. 19:8 "Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginnings."**

- B. In God's original plan, woman meets a man's desire, need, and insufficiency, and man does the same with woman and children. God has put things in our partner and in our fathers and mothers that we need. No one can fill those voids in isolation or pretending to reinvent a more modern version of marriage. It is evident that this social experiment caused by the current of the world is not working, so it can never be otherwise..

### IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God's design is the best for marriage and family?
2. What do you think is the most severe attack against the family and what can you do to counter it?
3. How can you promote these principles in your family?