Trusting in the Goodness of God

God's Goodness Displayed in Provision Genesis 2:4-25

God's Provision of Partnership (Part Two)

Genesis 2:18-24

God designed humanity to fulfill His purposes through the *covenant* partnership of marriage.

1.	What is a covenant?
	a. It is a agreement establishing a relationship.
	b. It is what the relationship.
	c. It is what the relationship.
2.	What is a covenant marriage?
	a. It is the dissolution of the/ relationship.
	b. It is the creation of a/ relationship.
	c. It is a of one man to one woman by God.
	d. It is a mutual promise made by before God.
3.	What are the blessings of covenant marriage?
	a. A safe environment for being
	b. A secure environment for the flourishing of
	c. A supportive environment for needed
	d. A stable foundation for the flourishing of

Questions for Discussion

- The statement, "You will be my people and I will be your God" (e.g. Exod. 6:7; Jer. 11:4) is most descriptive of the covenant relationship between God and His people. What does each half of this statement mean and what are some of the implications?
- Discuss the differences between contracts and covenants (see handout provided in the bulletin).
- In what ways have we made marriage a contract relationship? What effect does this have on marriage? How would marriage relationships change if they were treated as a covenant?
- Notice that God brought Eve to Adam (v 22). In other words, He formed the union. What does this say about the nature of marriage (cf. Mark 10:9)?
- The marriage covenant brings an end to the parent/child relationship (v 24). Why is this important to the health of the marriage? How should this shift the focus of the married couple?
- What are some of the blessings God has provided by instituting covenant marriage? How can you better celebrate these blessings?

Contracts vs. Covenants

- Contracts involve the exchange of goods and/or services.
 - Covenants involve the exchange of the individuals themselves.
- Contracts are negotiated.
 - o Covenants are initiated.
- Contracts bind legally.
 - o Covenants bind relationally.
- Contracts are established upon legalities.
 - o Covenants are established upon loyalty.
- Contracts are held together by threat of penalty.
 - Covenants are held together by personal integrity.
- Contracts free parties from obligation when broken.
 - o Covenants bind parties to reconciliation when broken.
- Contracts have term limits.
 - o Covenants have life limits...
- Contracts are signed.
 - o Covenants have signs...

TRUSTING IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD

HIS GOODNESS DISPLAYED
IN PROVISION

Genesis 2:4-25

GOD'S PROVISION OF PARTNERSHIP

(PART TWO)

Genesis 2:18-24

God designed humanity to fulfill His purposes through the covenant partnership of marriage.

Covenant Marriage

What is a covenant?

What is a covenant?

It is a formal agreement establishing a relationship.

The covenant with Adam

Hosea 6:7

"But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant..."

Covenant Seen in Genesis 2:15-17

- The Lord took Adam, put him in the garden, and provided blessing.
- The Lord charged Adam to worship and serve Him.
- God gave specific commandments to Adam.
- God warned Adam concerning disobedience.
- The Lord removed Adam from the garden when he disobeyed.

What was the agreement?

God's part was the gift of a garden and the promise of blessing.

Adam's part was the work of worship and the obedience of faith.

Relationship was at the heart of the agreement, and it was relationship that was lost by disobedience.

Contracts vs. Covenants

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 - Covenants have signs.

What is a covenant?

It is a formal agreement establishing a relationship.

It is what defines the relationship.

Defining the Relationship

Jeremiah 7:23

"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you."

Defining the Relationship

Jeremiah 7:23

"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you."

What is a covenant?

It is a formal agreement establishing a relationship.

It is what defines the relationship.

It is what binds the relationship.

Covenants bind together

Genesis 2:24

"For this reason a man leaves his father and his mother, and clings to his wife; and they become one flesh."

God has bound Himself to us and us to Him. And He designed marriage as a living illustration of that relationship.

Covenant Marriage

What is a covenant?

What is a covenant marriage?

Marriage as a covenant

Malachi 2:14

"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant."

Covenant Marriage

It is the dissolution of the parent/child relationship.

Genesis 2:24

"For this reason a man shall forsake his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

"Leaving" = "forsaking" and refers to the severing of a covenantal relationship.

Jeremiah 16:11

"Then you are to say to them, 'It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me,' declares the LORD, 'and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law."

Implication?

The parent/child relationship must end if the marriage is to reflect the singular devotion of covenant commitment.

Covenant Marriage

It is the dissolution of the parent/child relationship.

It is the creation of a husband/wife relationship.

Genesis 2:24

"For this reason a man shall forsake his father and his mother, and shall cling to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."

To "cling to" is to sincerely devote oneself to a covenant relationship.

Deuteronomy 10:20

You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.

Implication?

The husband/wife relationship must be primary if it is to reflect the singular devotion of a covenant commitment.

Covenant Marriage

It is the dissolution of the parent/child relationship.

It is the creation of a husband/wife relationship.

It is the union of one man to one woman by God.

By God

Genesis 2:22

And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and [God] brought her to the man.

It was God who brought the woman to the man, and it was God who established the relationship.

Implication?

Marriage is God's institution not ours or the state's.

A union of one man and woman

Genesis 2:24

"For this reason a man shall forsake his father and his mother, and shall cling to his wife; and they have become one flesh."

It is God who joins the man to the woman making them one.

Implication?

Man cannot separate what God has put together.

Mark 10:9

"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

Covenant Marriage

It is the dissolution of the parent/child relationship.
It is the creation of a husband/wife relationship.
It is the union of one man to one woman by God.

It is a mutual promise made by oath before God.

Genesis 2:23

And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man".

"Bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." is said as an oath of loyalty.

2 Samuel 5:1

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh."

Implication?

Our marriage vows are a covenant promise made by an oath in the presence of God.

Covenant Marriage

What is a covenant?
What is a covenant marriage?

What are the blessings of covenant marriage?

A safe environment for being known.

A safe environment for being known.

A secure environment for the flourishing of children.

A safe environment for being known.

A secure environment for the flourishing of children.

A supportive environment for needed help.

A safe environment for being known.

A secure environment for the flourishing of children.

A supportive environment for needed change.

A stable foundation for the flourishing of society.

Key Questions to Consider

Do you view marriage as a contract or as a covenant?

Does marriage give you cause to rejoice in the blessings of God?

Are you in a covenant relationship with God?