



# MARRIAGE & FAMILY

**God's Good Plan**

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**Session 2**

# HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS

## ➤ Old Testament (BC):

- **The family was the chief educational institution of society. Children learned through informal participation in family life and by parental example.**
- **Fathers were to teach children God's law and a trade in order to earn a living. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (the *Shema*) – acknowledge and love the one true God and to teach his Word to their children in the daily activities of life – no formal schools.**
- **Levites served as priests (representing the people before God) and as teachers.**



- **Ceremonies, rites, feasts and festivals were concrete ways to remind people about who God is and what He has done. The written Torah included the law (Pentateuch), the Prophets (historical and prophetic books), and the Holy Writings (Psalms and wisdom literature). Oral interpretations of the Torah (the *Mishnah*) were passed down through generations.**
- **Following the exile, synagogues were developed as places to read and explain the Scriptures. Scribes studied and interpreted the law and taught it to the people. On the Sabbath, people gathered to recite the *Shema*, for prayer, the reading of the Torah and prophets, and the blessing. These times were geared for adults who in turn would later instruct their own children.**



- **Over time, teachings and traditions beyond the Scriptures were developed and the faith of God's people increasingly became that of Jewish "religion" rather than of truth encompassing all of life. This was the situation of God's people at the time when the Jesus (the Messiah) came to earth. Sadly, it was the leaders and teachings of what had become the "Jewish religion" that Christ opposed most forcefully. And, it was these leaders that plotted to have Jesus put to death.**



## ➤ First Century Church (AD 30 - 100):

- **Jesus taught as one with authority. He presented the rightful interpretation of the Scriptures, not one memorized from the Mishnah or presented solely on the authority of tradition (Mark 1:22).**
- **He taught many people in whom the teachers of his day would not have wasted their time – women, Gentiles, “sinners”. He welcomed children and did not send them away.**
- **He taught wherever he went – in the synagogue, in homes, by the sea, on hillsides, wherever the people were. He used a wide variety of teaching methods – object lessons, parables, dialogue and puns helping people to remember what he taught while hiding the truth from those who did not want to understand and respond to it. Jesus lived out what he taught.**



- **The Book of Acts shows how Christ's disciples began to live out the Great Commission (Acts 2:42; 5:42; 6:2). They focused upon 1) the good news of the gospel of Christ 2) the interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures in light of Christ's life, death and resurrection 3) the confession of faith held by Christians 4) the teachings of Jesus and 5) how to live in response to God's love and saving work.**
- **These teachings were crucial to the furtherance of the faith and people were gifted by the Holy Spirit to become leaders and teachers to build up the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16). This ministry of teaching was not to be taken lightly due to the heavy responsibility of leading others into the truth (James 3:1).**



# JESUS & FAMILY RELATIONS

## ➤ Was Jesus “anti-family”?

- “Leaving family” to follow Christ (Matt. 19: 16-30; Mark 10: 17-31; Luke 9: 59-62; 18: 18-30)
- “Hating” (miseo – Gk) family & self compared to Christ (Luke 14: 25-26)
- He would bring division to families (Matt. 10: 34-39; Luke 12: 49-53)
- Jesus family did not at first accept Him (Matt. 13: 53-58; Mark 3: 21; John 7: 3-5)
- Jesus’ “spiritual” family more important (Matt. 12: 46-50; Mark 3: 21)



# JESUS & FAMILY RELATIONS

- **Jesus was NOT anti-family – He, as God, created the family as the primary human relationship**
- **The central theme is that Jesus is God and that there is to be no relationship (even family) above one's relationship with Him – this would be a form of idolatry – the issue here is of **Christ's Lordship as His disciple****





- **The mention of one's own family (even oneself) is an example of ultimate testing of one's loyalty to God which only underscores the importance of the family**
- **Jesus condemned adultery (Matt. 5: 31-32; Mark 10: 10-12; Luke 16: 18), blessed children (Mark 10: 13-16) and upheld honoring parents (even over false "religious" tradition) (Matt. 15: 1-9; Mark 7: 8-13)**



# APOSTLE PAUL'S TEACHING

- **Importance of marriage (Eph. 5: 22-33; Col. 3:18-19)**
- **Parents and children (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)**
- **Children obeying parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3: 20-21; I Tim. 3;4; Titus 1:6) and disobedience a characteristic of evil times or end times (Rom. 1:30; II Tim. 3:1-2)**
- **Responsibility to extended family (I Tim. 5: 3-8)**



# **THE NATURE OF MARRIAGE: SACRAMENT, CONTRACT, OR COVENANT? (A. KOESTENBURGER)**

- **Sacrament** – Roman Catholic view – recast of Augustine’s view of marriage as a holy and permanent covenant depicting Christ and His Church whereby divine grace is mystically dispensed to the couple. Marriage was first recognized as a sacrament at the Council of Verona (AD 1184).



- **Contract – secular view of Western culture (Gary Chapman)**
  - 1. Typically made for a limited period of time**
  - 2. Most often deal with specific actions**
  - 3. Are conditional upon the continued performance of contractual obligations by the other partner**
  - 4. Are entered into for one's own benefit**
  - 5. Are sometimes unspoken and implicit**



- **Covenant** – a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God (whether or not this is acknowledged by the married couple), normally consummated by sexual intercourse



# **SUPPORT FOR COVENANTAL VIEW**

- 1. Covenantal Language found in Genesis 2 narrative – “one flesh” union equivalent to other O.T. covenants – Adam’s naming Eve**
- 2. Scripture passages that explicitly refer to marriage as a covenant – Proverbs 2:16-17; Malachi 2:14**



# IMPLICATIONS:

1. The permanence of marriage (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9)
2. The sacredness (divine imprint) of marriage  
(Genesis 2:22; Ephesians 5:22-33)
3. The intimacy of marriage  
(Genesis 2:23-25)
4. The mutuality of marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33;  
Colossians 3:18; Genesis 2:18,20)
5. The exclusiveness of marriage (Genesis 2:22-25;  
I Corinthians 7:2-5)



➤ *The marriage relationship is the only example given in the Scriptures which is to portray Christ's relationship to His Bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). As Christ's relationship to the Church is preeminent in that it encompasses Man's relationship to God, so then is the marriage relationship preeminent over all human relationships.*

