

Redeeming Marriage

God's Vision for Intimate Partnership



Genesis 2:21-25

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



Genesis 2:21-25

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



Outline

1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage
2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy
3. Grace: The Gospel Pattern for Restoring Our Relationships



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

Genesis 2:21-25



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours

❖ Marriage = one man, one woman, one life



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

- ❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours
 - ❖ Marriage = one man, one woman, one life
 - ❖ Equality + complementarity of the two sexes



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

- ❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours
- ❖ Marriage is designed for intimacy



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

- ❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours
- ❖ Marriage is designed for intimacy
 - ❖ Intimacy = unflinching honesty + unfailing love



1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage

- ❖ Marriage is God's idea, not ours
- ❖ Marriage is designed for intimacy
- ❖ Human longing reflects God's good design



2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy

Genesis 3:7-12



Genesis 3:7-12

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”



Genesis 3:7-12

¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”



2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy

Symptoms of fractured intimacy

- ❖ Shame (v. 7-8)
- ❖ Fear (v. 10)
- ❖ Blame (v. 12)



2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy

Resulting issues in marriage:

- ❖ Deeply rooted dysfunction
- ❖ Unhealthy coping mechanisms
- ❖ Emotionally immature relational patterns



2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy

“The Marriage Illusion Coin”*

- ❖ One side: marriage should be easy
 - ❖ Other side: difficulty in marriage means we have irreconcilable differences
- Both beliefs are problematic...

*Jay Stringer, *Desire: The Longings Inside Us and the New Science of How We Love, Heal, and Grow*, p. 127



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Healing Our Broken Relationships

Genesis 3:8-9, 15, 21



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9)



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

- ❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9) >>> move toward your spouse



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

- ❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9) >>> move toward your spouse
- ❖ God's provision (v. 21)



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

- ❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9) >>> move toward your spouse
- ❖ God's provision (v. 21) >>> cover one another's shame



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

- ❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9) >>> move toward your spouse
- ❖ God's provision (v. 21) >>> cover one another's shame
- ❖ God's promise (v. 15)



3. Grace: The Gospel Paradigm for Restoring Broken Relationships

Three aspects of grace in Genesis 3:

- ❖ God's pursuit (vv. 8-9) >>> move toward your spouse
- ❖ God's provision (v. 21) >>> cover one another's shame
- ❖ God's promise (v. 15) >>> embrace costly love



Summary

1. Oneness: God's Design for Marriage
2. Brokenness: How Sin Fractures Intimacy
3. Grace: The Gospel Pattern for Restoring Our Relationships



Ephesians 5:31-32

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

