

Two Into One • Part 2 – Communication

INTRO – Genesis 2

The Route to Intimacy

1. We began our marriage series last Wednesday with a look at the Purpose & Goal of marriage from Gen 2.
 - a. The **Purpose** of marriage is to solve the problem of **loneliness**.
 - b. Its **Goal** is that **2 become 1** thru the process of blending we call **intimacy**.
 - c. That's how loneliness is solved; thru **intimacy**; → Knowing and be known.
2. Today considering the **route to intimacy**. // We find it in Gen. 2 -

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

1. The first marriage is the **template** for all others. Moses lays down the pattern.
 - a. The man **leaves** his parents & **joins** his wife. → They become one.
 - b. We'll talk about the importance of **leaving & cleaving** in a later study.
 - c. For now we want to focus on that word "**Join**" // In Hebrew = 'dawbak.'
 - 1) It means to *stick to / hold fast to / to be together, close / to pursue*.
 - 2) The root means to *catch something by earnest pursuit*.
2. Let's feed *that* into v24.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and catch by an all-out pursuit of his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- a. Their becoming one isn't **fully realized** on their wedding day.
 - b. It's **begins** then, then deepens in the weeks, months & years that follow.
 - c. The point to glean is the importance of a couple, **& especially the man**, taking responsibility for **pursuing** their oneness.
-
3. V25 show us the **depth of intimacy** God wants a husband & wife to know.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- a. That's the intimacy God's planned for marriage -
 - b. That a husband & wife **know one another** without fear of **rejection**.
 - c. **Every** marriage is an opportunity, thru the love & forgiveness God offers, to go back to the Garden & reclaim what Adam & Eve had **before** the Fall.
 - d. God intends marriage to be a **refuge**; a safe place, unmarred by shame.
4. But here's the thing → If our marriage is to attain that kind of intimacy, there's **one** ingredient that's an **absolute essential**.
 5. For a husband & wife to know each other they must → **Communicate!**
 6. Communication is the **route to intimacy**

HUSBAND - Understand Your Wife! // 1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. In the verses prior to this, Peter spells out the role of the wife → Wednesday
 - a. Then the role of the husband, following Wednesday, and will dive deeper into this verse.
 - b. These things are considered by many as old-fashioned & out of step with the times.
 - c. **Patriarchal!** → But frankly, that's a grossly historically inaccurate criticism.
 - d. What both Paul & Peter call a husband and wife to was **unheard** of in the 1st C.
 - e. So, don't miss the next 2 Wednesday nights.
 2. Peter here upends the accepted practice of his time.
 - a. A wife was little better than a servant in the Greco-Roman world.
 - b. Someone by whom a man raised legal heirs to pass his name & estate to.
 - c. But when it came to love & pleasure, men had a mistress or visited temple prostitutes whose **business** was providing pleasure.
 - d. A wife had little standing in her husband's esteem or affection.
 3. So when Peter tells a husband to **honor** his wife as he would a precious vase, this was nothing less than **radical social revolution**.
 4. It was precisely for values like this Christians were accused by their critics of upsetting the social order & turning the world upside down!
 - a. Jesus' Followers were messing with a system in place for hundreds of years.
 - b. Who knows what *chaos* might ensue if men honored their wives!
-
5. Most shocking of all is Peter's instruction at the beginning of v7 -

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding

1. The idea a man would bother **understanding** his wife was completely novel.
 2. But Peter restores something that had been lost → **The Purpose & Goal of Marriage**.
-
3. While he tells husbands to **understand** their wives, nowhere are wives told to **understand** their husbands. You know why?
 - a. Because men are simple! A woman spends little effort **understanding** her husband.
 - b. Men on the other hand find it just about **impossible** to understand their wives, because = [Pic]
 - c. **That's why** Peter calls them **to** it. It so difficult, confusing & frustrating, many give up.
 4. He says, "**DWELL** with them with understanding."
 - a. He's to **live with** his wife in such a way that he makes her the **object** of his attention & affection.
 - b. He **keeps pursuing** her, trying to catch her, though he never will.
 - c. He's like one of those dogs at the races, chasing the stuffed rabbit.
 - d. A husband is to aim at knowing & understand his wife. What makes her tick?
 - e. What are her **moods**, and how's he to react to each of the 43 of them?
 - f. What are her **dreams, desires, passions**; her **fears**.
 - g. What **motivates** her? **Calms** her? **Agitates**? **Inspires**?
 5. The tense of that word **dwell** means he's to **KEEP** on in His pursuit to understand her.
 - a. IOW: This isn't a weekend project.
 - b. It isn't an item on Saturday's TO DO list.
 - 1) Mow yard, fix sprinklers, lube garage door, understand wife.
 - 2) He might as well add- "Negotiate world peace."
 - 3) He has as good a chance getting that done as understanding his wife.
 6. Let's be honest: Because women are ultra-complex, understanding them is nigh to impossible.

-
- a. Women invite each other over for coffee, then sit & chat.
 - b. They go to showers & parties & talk about all kinds of things.
 - c. 2 guys sitting on the couch chatting? Nope!
 - d. They meet at a party & while dipping Nacho Doritos in bean dip set up a day of golf or kite-surfing.
 - e. It's **then** they talk, while walking the links.
9. A wife imagines having a meaningful conversation with her husband and pictures sitting on the couch together staring into each other's eyes.
 - a. That scares the bejebbers out of most men. They feel like they're being reprimanded.
 - b. So they clam up, lose their train of thought, get confused, their palms get sweaty, their heart begins to race, they blush & look guilty.
 10. Ladies, you may find it a lot more productive to talk with your husband while the 2 of you are engaged in some activity; going for a walk or drive, working in the yard together, washing the car, watching the NCAA Finals.
-

Ephesians 4:25-32

1. Paul gives important guidelines for communication in Eph 4.

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

2. It's so easy to shade the truth to avoid getting into trouble.
3. But a marriage is built on **trust** & deceit wounds it. // Trust is built slowly & lost quickly.
4. So resist the temptation to lie or shade the truth **even a little**.

²⁶ "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

5. We can't help being angry. But we must control **how** that anger is expressed.
6. Number One: Watch your mouth when you're angry!
7. Number Two: Don't just **stuff** anger. That's what "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" means.
 - a. **Resolve** the issue that **caused** the anger.
 - b. If it's selfish, repent & ask for forgiveness
 - c. If there's a legitimate reason for anger, take it to those involved & deal with it before today becomes tomorrow.
8. Too many couples let years of unresolved anger drive a wedge of bitterness between them.
 - a. Rather than deal with the issues that prompted anger, they stuff it, hoping it'll go away.
 - b. It doesn't. When stuffed, it morphs into **bitterness** → And bitterness metastasizes to **hatred**.
9. And THAT becomes an opening Satan will exploit.

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

10. Some of the marriages here need this last part more than anything else we've looked at.
 11. I say this 37 yrs' pastoral experience → Unforgiveness is a major problem.
 - a. Many couples living under the same roof, are miles apart.
 - b. They share a bed, but not a life.
-

-
- c. They've disappointed & hurt each other so many times it's all they expect.
12. The only reason they haven't divorced is because it's too expensive.
 13. The turn-around comes when we forgive & reclaim God's plan for our marriage.
 14. To Become One. To Know and Be Known.
 15. **Every** couple must do what Paul says here, forgive → **As God forgave us.**
-

CONCLUSION

1. When we mess up, all we need to do to be forgiven is turn back to God.
 2. We KNOW that's true, because in Rom 10:21 God says,

"All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people."
 3. 1 John 1:9,

If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 4. These verses arm with confidence that when we mess up, forgiveness is just a prayer away.
 5. God doesn't ride His throne with arms crossed & a scowl.
 - a. He doesn't turn to an angel & ask for an account of how we'll we're doing.
 - b. He doesn't check to see when was the last time He forgave us.
 - c. It's not like we draw some forgiveness Monday then wait for Thursday for it to refill.
 - d. God doesn't portion out forgiveness one dose at a time, so much as He STANDS in a posture of forgiveness toward us; hands reaching out to us.
 6. Husbands and wives: Let's do this → Because Paul says we supposed to.
 7. Instead of passing out forgiveness one offence at a time, stand in a posture of forgiveness.
 8. On her Golden Wedding Anniversary, a grandmother revealed the secret of her long and happy marriage to her grand-daughter.
 - a. She said, "On my wedding day, I decided to choose 10 of my husband's faults which, for the sake of our marriage, I'd overlook."
 - b. The grand-daughter asked her to name some of those faults.
 - c. The grandmother replied, "I never got around to listing them. But whenever he did something that made me mad, I'd say to myself, 'Lucky for him that's 1 of the 10.'"
-
9. Let me be clear: This doesn't mean a spouse gets a pass for abuse, violence, or something illegal or immoral.
 10. Commit a crime, do the time. // But that's not the nature of **most** marital problems.
-

Communion