

6-24-18 Message
IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Genesis 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam 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.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Intro: Paul says.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

That this is a mystery, but these verses in Genesis where it says:

Genesis 2:18 It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

According to Paul, these verses are not talking about the Physical marriage, but God had in mind the Mysterious union between Christ and His Church..

What is a mystery in the Bible?

WHAT IS A MYSTERY?

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Paul explains what a Mystery is:

Ephesians 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Ephesians 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

Ephesians 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Paul explains that a mystery in the Bible is some truth that was hidden. It was there but hidden and known only to God. In the process of time this truth is revealed.

Notice in Eph 3:5

Ephesians 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

A mystery is something that in ages past was not known. It was hidden.

So applying this to Eph 5:32

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Adam - Eve - Abraham - David - O.T. Prophets, none of them understood how Christ would come and purchase to Himself this group of people He called His church. It was hidden, that God had this in mind even before the fall. He had it in mind since the creation.

In other words, according to Paul, it was a mystery that when God said, for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, God had in mind the mysterious union between Christ and his church. In other words, the first marriage was a mysterious picture of the church, the ultimate and most important creation of God.

We think that God uses the Spiritual Union and Marriage between Christ and His church as an example of how every marriage should operate. That is true, but really the more important relationship is between Christ and His church more so than even the physical union of marriage. Marriage is till death do you part, but shall we ever be separated from Christ? NO, NOT EVEN IN DEATH!

Many a marital break up has led to the salvation of a man or woman.

The devastation and heartache of the loss of a physical partner has lead many a person to seek the comfort of the Spiritual Bridegroom, who is Christ.

A great example of this is a Mary Warner, a lady who worked as my secretary many years ago. She is one of many that have come to Christ because of the loss of a husband.

The point I am trying to make is that the Bible says your union and marriage with Christ should come first above all other things.

Sad, the Bible says. it is not good that a man should live a alone.
But many a Christian goes it alone spiritually.

Many a Christian thinks that they can succeed in their spiritual Pilgrimage alone, without the Church.

God never intended a Christian to be alone. He has ordained the church where we can enjoy camaraderie and fellowship together.

I WANT TO FOCUS IN ON THIS VERSE.

IT IS NOT GOOD THAT MAN SHOLD LIVE ALONE,
and I want to redirect this statement just as Paul redirected in Ephesians.

IT IS NOT GOOD THAT A CHRISTIAN SHOULD DWELL ALONE WITHOUT A CHURCH.

OR

**WE COULD TITLE THIS MESSAGE
WHY IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH?**

I. IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH BECAUSE IT JUST DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

God looked down at Adam and saw him standing there all alone, and there was something wrong with that picture.

Something was missing and that something was Eve.

It didn't look good the picture wasn't complete, so God had to make another person to complete the picture and that person was Eve.

So it is that God does not save a person to dwell alone, without a Church.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

When a person says they are saved but do not go to Church, there is something wrong with that picture. It is not a good picture.

The picture is distorted.

Fellow tells me he is saved, but doesn't want to go to Church. There is something wrong with that. It is not right.

If you are saved and you say you love the Lord, then you should love His church.

Why does this not look good?

II. IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH BECAUSE GOD NEVER MADE IT TO BE THAT WAY. He designed a Christian to be part of His Church.

When God said it was not good for man to be alone, He was not only thinking about Adam having a wife, He was thinking about people being added to his church.

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God made a place called the church where we can enjoy camaraderie.

God designed the Christian to be part of a Church, just like He designed a man and a women to dwell together as Husband and wife.

In fact, Paul says this is a great Mystery, but God had the church in mind even when he made Adam and Eve. Every marriage is to be a picture of the church. The picture is but a reflection of the real thing. In fact, the church is more important in the mind of God than your marriage!

Paul even suggested it was better for a person to be single if he could more faithfully serve Christ that way.

I Corinthians 7:32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

I Corinthians 7:33 But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

Physical marriage is a picture of the more important thing which is the church.

The picture is only important because of what it represents.

But remember our respect for the real thing gives importance to the picture.

If I don't love a person I may neglect their picture.

If there is someone your are mad at, or disrespect, you might draw a mustache on their picture. You might throw darts at their picture. The reason you do so is because you don't love or respect the person that the picture represents.

Now the truth is that many times the picture gets destroyed first. Let me suggest to you, that the reason there is such a disdain today for the institution of marriage is because of our godless society. People can't get along in their marriages, because people are not right with the Lord. They desecrate the picture because they are upset at the person. The person they are upset at is God, or Jesus.

Let's say we have a presidential candidate that you didn't respect and didn't want to win the election. Maybe if you were mischievous enough you might see their picture hanging some where and draw a mustache on it.

And so it is today.

Since people have no respect for Jesus and God. They are desecrating the picture that He has of Himself and His bride the church.

That Picture is called a Marriage. SO MARRIAGES ARE NOT WORKING TODAY!

I would rather someone mistreat a picture of me than to mistreat me.
But the truth is that if they do not respect me they will not respect my picture.

I would rather someone neglect a picture of me than to neglect me.
But if they have no love for me they will have no love of a picture of me.

I would rather someone throw darts at a picture of me than throw darts out at me.

Yet if someone would use my picture for a dart board, it is probably because they do not respect or care for me much.

III. IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH BECAUSE EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS HELP:

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

This is the purpose of the local Church, to help meet your spiritual needs.

Every Christian needs a Church to complete them.

When God saw Adam all by himself He said it was not good.
I need to make someone else to help him.

So it is that we are to help one another in the church.

God gives the Church a Pastor to lead and direct and guide them.

God gives other Brothers and Sisters in Christ to help encourage, uplift, and edify each other.

When we stop thinking we need the church.
It might come to a point in our life that our spouse may think they don't need us.

Bible. Fellow came to church a few years ago weeping after the service. Told me how he was moving out of the area and wanted to give me some of his old books. This Bible was one of those. it is signed by his wife as a gift.

Told me the story of how his wife left him.

When did it all start? He said it started when his wife got a Job and then they couldn't serve in the church anymore. Soon they drifted, their attendance became sporadic.

Church no longer became a priority, and soon their marriage no longer became a priority.

God gives a man a help meet because every Christian needs help in their Christian walk. God ordained the local Church as that place where the Christian should receive that help.

We think we don't need the church.
Soon a wife thinks she doesn't need her husband.
The husband thinks he doesn't need his wife.

IT IS NOT GOOD to be without a church.

IV. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO BE WITHOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH BECAUSE GOD NEVER INTENDED US TO REPRODUCE SPIRITUALLY BY OURSELVES.

God did not make man like a worm. Every worm is sexless, neither male or female.

God made a man first and he was alone. But God said it was not good that he was alone, and God made a woman.

So too, God does not call a Christian to be saved and then expect him to go through this life alone with no one else to help him. No one to compliment him/her.

The local Church is where we can work together with other Christians and seek to reproduce spiritually.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

God never sent out Preachers by themselves.

God sends them out with others.

1Cor. 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

1Cor. 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Just as God ordained that it take two to produce physical children, so it is we need each other to produce spiritual fruit. A Pastor does not go it alone. We need to work together and then God gives the increase.

IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO LIVE ALONE I WILL MAKE HIM A HELP MEET.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

I It is not Good because it doesn't look good the picture is not complete.

II. It is not Good because God didn't design it that way.

III. It is not Good because We each need a Help Meet.

IV. It is not Good because we cannot produce fruit that way.

Invitation:

1. How faithful are you to God's church?
2. Remember. Let's not fool ourselves.
3. As your love for Christ goes, don't be surprised if your respect for the picture goes also.

6-24-18 EVENING
IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH PART II

I. IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH BECAUSE IT JUST DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.

Picture is not complete.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Why does this not look good????

II. IT IS NOT GOOD TO BE WITHOUT A CHURCH BECAUSE GOD NEVER MADE IT TO BE THAT WAY. He designed a Christian to be part of His Church.

When God said it was not good for man to be alone, He was not only thinking about Adam having a wife, He was thinking about people being added to His church.

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We think we don't need the church.

Soon a wife thinks she doesn't need her husband.

The husband thinks he doesn't need his wife.

IT IS NOT GOOD to be with our a church.

IV. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE CHRISTIAN TO BE WITHOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH BECAUSE.GOD NEVER INTENDED US TO REPRODUCE SPIRITUALLY by ourselves.

God did not make man like a worm. Every worm is sexless, neither male or female.

God made a man first and he was alone. But God said it was not good that he was alone and God made a woman.

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II. It is not Good because God didn't design it that way.

III. It is not Good because We each need a Help Meet.

IV. It is not Good because we cannot produce fruit that way.

MARRIAGE IS A PICTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Ephesians 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

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Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

The Key to a Healthy Marriage.

Each person must play out their proper role.

I. Marriage is the greatest picture of salvation in the Bible.

We are called the bride of Christ and that spiritual bride is made up of many members. We are a body.

I Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

I Corinthians 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

I Corinthians 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

I Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

I Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

I Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

We are the bride of Christ.

II. The Bride must play the role of Submission.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

In the church we are to nurture and care and love one another, just as you would love and care for your own body. We need to work as one.

When one hurts we all hurt.

When one rejoices we all rejoice.

III. The Husband must play the role of Christ. Sacrificial Love and Character and leadership.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

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IV. Marriages Hurt today Because We Often Reverse Roles.

Husbands want the wife to sacrifice for them.

Wives want the husband to obey them.

It is for this reason that woman Pastors are wrong. It breaks the spiritual picture. It has nothing to do with abilities, or knowledge, etc. It is just the fact that when a woman usurps authority over a man in the church it breaks the spiritual picture of Christ being the husband, and the church being the bride.

1. MY ADVICE FOR THE HUSBAND.

Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Be the kind of Man that your wife could respect and desire.

Then your leadership will come natural.

2. My Advice To the Ladies.

Be a help meet to your husband and be behind him in his endeavors and work. make your husband a success and then he will love you.

A man will work harder for a family that is supportive of him and respects him. Submission is more than just saying yes sir, it involves an attitude of the heart.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that families and marriages are hurting in our nation today. I was reading some articles that are saying that the divorce rate is on the decline. That does not mean that marriage is on the rise. The fact is less marriage certificates are being requested. Which means there are less divorces because there are less marriages. Why are there less marriages? The answer is simple. More people are just living together and not getting married. So when they split up they do not have to file for a divorce.

So according to the article they are making it look like things are getting better. No, things are not getting better, they are getting worse. In other words, the condition of our homes is worse, not better. The institution of marriage is being weakened, not strengthened. So bad is it that we don't even know what constitutes a marriage. Is it male and female, male and male, female and female?? On and on we can ask. Is this a healthy trend? NO!

God made marriage. God set it up and He defines it and declares what makes it work and what is the best and healthiest way for it to work. When we reject God who made this sacred institution, is it any wonder that the institution itself is in chaos? Get back to the design and the designer and it will work the way it is supposed to.

Many few years back I was learning how to fix and repair pianos as a side trade. A wise piano technician gave me a great word of advice. He said to me "in trying to repair pianos, assume the manufacturer knew what they were doing, and try to get the instrument back to the way they designed it and it will work the way it is supposed to." This was a wise word of advice. Why do we not take that advice about the most sacred and the most important institution of our society, HOLY MATRIMONY? The Bible tells us about the designer of this institution, and also tells us how it should work. Let's do what it says!