

# Pr Mark Turner: Family Foundations: Distortion & Restoration (3/11/18)

## Introduction/Review:

Last timer we talked about the family we spoke primarily about the responsibility of the husband/father.

One of the key quotations that sort of directed our message was this one from the book Ministry of Healing:

*"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are "the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."* Ellen White, The Ministry of Healing, pg 349.

## God's Good Design:

### Equality

- Both were made in the image of God
- Both were formed by God
- Both were made of the same flesh and bone
- Both inhabit the garden and enjoy God's provision
- Both were bound by the same divine commands

### Difference

- He has a responsibility of leadership that she does not have
- She has a responsibility (to be a "helper") that he does not have

*"This is not the march of patriarchalism (where the man hammers out the beat) or the race of feminism (where the woman wins), but rather the man and woman are equal and with different responsibilities. In God's good design, their relationship is neither a march nor a race, but a dance where the man leads and the woman follows, and yet together they move as one, in perfect harmony."* Claire Smith, God's Good Design, pg 174

God's design for unity. Brought on by close collaboration and cooperation. Communication and coordination allowing for harmony.

## What went wrong?

Genesis 3:1-5 - The conspiracy...

- In the context of Genesis 2:16,17 and Revelation 12:9 this was Satan conspiring against God's good design.

Genesis 3:6 - The betrayal...

- God's design is bypassed and reversed. The harmony that had reigned was not applied.

Genesis 3:7,8 - The result...

- Adam and Eve experienced shame when God's plan was abandoned.

Genesis 3:9-11 - Man's response...

- Adam, who had not long previous been willing to for Eve, now throws her under the bus.

Genesis 3:12-14 - Woman's response...

- Eve fends off the blame and instead blames the serpent.

Genesis 3:14,15 - The promise...

- God ensures that the serpent takes responsibility for his sabotage, and promises a deliverer.

Genesis 3:16 - The curse...

- Grief becomes a part of the experience of procreation
- "your desire shall be for your husband..."
  - Moses uses this word only twice:
    - Genesis 3:16
    - Genesis 4:7
      - It seems that the word should have translated (in Genesis 3) as "desire to control" or "desire to usurp his authority"
      - It seems God is saying that this mistake of seeking to "rule over" would haunt her for the rest of human existence (pre restoration)
      - "You will now have a tendency to dominate your husband, and he will have a tendency to oppress you." Mark's Paraphrase
      - Each strives for control and neither lives in the best interest of the other

*"The unity, harmony and teamwork of Genesis 2 has been replaced by woman's constant desire to control her husband, and his loving leadership has been replaced by domination or abdication (which is actually a passive form of domination)." Claire Smith, God's Good Design, pg 178*

*"This verse, then, does not represent the institution of male headship and wifely submission, but the distortion of it." Claire Smith, God's Good Design, pg 178*

### **How does God bring restoration?**

Ephesians 5:18 - "Be filled with the Spirit..."

- In Paul's mind, this action will lead to restoration in every other area of your life.

Ephesians 5:19-21 - These are some examples of what that restoration looks like.

- Philippians 2:3 speaks of this mutual submission (God's good design restored).

Ephesians 5:33 - What does this look like in marriage?

- Wife's greatest need: love

- Husband's greatest need: respect
- (The whole treatment of the subject is in Ephesians 5:22-33. But verse 33 is a good summary).

Ephesians 5:25 - "Love your wives as Christ..."

- Paul doesn't say wives "obey" your husband (like to your parent).
- Paul doesn't say husbands "control" your wife (in a domineering way).
- He seems to cry out "be a team."

The Husband's Love:

1. Sacrificial Love
2. Sanctifying Love
3. Caring Love
4. Unbreakable Love

If this counsel was followed our homes would be a little piece of heaven on earth.

The gospel can make marriages 'the best that life can offer.'

### **Conclusion:**

*"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are "the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences." Ellen White, The Ministry of Healing, pg 349*

Let the restoration begin!