

Entrust Biblical Masculinity Lesson 7 Masculinity & Marriage Part 1 12/14/22

INTRO:

1. Satan's Attack on Marriage

- a. We understand that God and Christ are Satan's fiercest enemies. Satan labors to blind and deceive many in the world to God's truth (2 Cor 4:4), often swiping the word out of the hearts of the unregenerate when they hear (Matt 13:19), all while seeking some to devour (1 Pet 5:8)
- b. He must be firmly resisted by men of the truth (1 Pet 5:9)
- c. Any attempt to define marriage in a way that differs from Scripture is rebellion against God
- d. John MacArthur: "The 2 greatest attacks of terror on America were perpetrated by the Supreme Court... The first one was the legalizing of abortion. Subsequent to that, there have been millions of babies slaughtered in the wombs of their mothers... The second great act of terror perpetrated by the Supreme Court was the legalization of same-sex marriage. The destruction of human life in the womb in a sense, the destruction of motherhood, and now the destruction of the family itself. No bomb, no explosion, no attack, and no assault on people physically can come anywhere near that kind of terrorism. Our country is being terrorized by the people most responsible to protect it; those who are to uphold the law.

No human court has the authority to redefine morality. But this human court has said murder is not murder and marriage is not marriage and family is not family. They have usurped the authority that belongs only to God, who is the Creator of life, marriage, and family. Any and all attempts to define morality differently than God has is a form of rebellion and blasphemy; blasphemy against God, against his Holy nature, and his holy law, and his holy people. This nation, at its highest level, has taken a position against God."¹

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATv9q2BkRus&t=123s>

e. Jim Brooks: "Satan hates marriage. He hates *Christian* marriages in particular for believers dramatizing Christ and the church powerfully display the gospel in their marriage (Eph 5:32-33). Satan thus aims to destroy *Christian* marriages because such opposition hinders the witness of Christ to the world. To counter Satan's attack we must understand God's design for marriage, Satan's strategy against it, and how to stand firm in our marriages."²

f. Ways that Satan has distorted marriage in history³

➤ Unnatural Marriages (Gen 6:1-4)

➤ Interreligious Marriages (Deut 7:3-4, 2 Cor 6:14)

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you."

➤ Unholy Marriages (Acts 5:1-11)

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?"

➤ Celibate Marriages (1 Cor 7:1-5)

➤ Forbidden marriages (1 Tim 4:1-3)

"...doctrine of demons...men who forbid marriage" (1 Tim 4:1, 3)

➤ Christian Marriages Under Satanic Attack (Eph 5:22-33)

➤ Same-gender marriage (today)

➤ Zoogamy (marriage to animals) & pragogamy (marriage to things) (maybe near future)

² <https://cbmw.org/2015/11/16/satans-war-on-marriage/>

³ *ibid.*

2. Marriage is God's creation

- a. God exists and the human race knows this (Rom 1:18-21)
- b. In his kindness, God has spoken to us in his word, the 66 inerrant books of the Bible (2 Tim 3:16)
- c. Therefore, we look to Scripture for matters concerning life and godliness.
- d. Marriage was something God created at the beginning of creation (Gen 2:22-24)

- i. God created 2 genders among the human race, male and female

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- ii. God created marriage, defining it as the lifelong covenant relationship between one male and one female. Anything else cannot be defined as marriage.

Genesis 2:22-24 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man 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." 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- e. Marriage was created before the Fall and is good (Gen 1:31, 2:22-25)

- "It is a key milestone for a man, and a massive step forward, when he finds a wife. She is the second rail, running parallel to fraternity, that supports him, carries him forward, and keeps his mission on track" (Foster & Tennant, 207)

3. Marriage is something to be pursued, not avoided

One study showed:⁴

- In 1962, 80% of people were married by age 25
- In 1980, 80% of people were married by about age 28

⁴ <https://www.businessinsider.com/average-marriage-age-united-states-2019-2>

- In 2019, 80% of people were married by age 40

[[The correlation with the moral decay of society is not coincidental ..]]

- Whatever the case, statistics show that the vast majority of people pursue marriage
 - a. Marriage is necessary to fulfill the cultural mandate

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- God created a single context where the human race can be fruitful and multiply; marriage.
- The only way to accomplish God’s creation mandate is a man and a woman together.
- Therefore, marriage is necessary to be fruitful and multiplying

- b. God declared that it is not good for a man to be alone

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

- This indicates that, generally speaking, men are made incomplete.
- What completes men is not other men, male companions, animals, work, or hobbies, for example.
- Immediately following the declaration of incompleteness, God created a woman
- The woman would solve the problem of the man’s incompleteness

Genesis 2:19–24 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹ So the LORD God

caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man 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." ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

- More specifically, covenant marriage with a woman, not, for example, cohabitation with the woman, casual companionship with the woman, or anything other than marriage
- c. Men are hard-wired with sexual passions, and the only legitimate, God-permitted fulfilling of these desires is in the context of marriage to a woman
- The reality of sexual desire indicates that marriage is to be pursued, not avoided

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. ² But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. ⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

- The presence of sexual desire is not sin nor corruption from the Fall
- A man's sexual desire is not sin (though same-gender desire, and desire for someone other than his wife is, cf. Matt 5:28, Rom 1:26-27)
- There is nothing remotely wrong with sexual desires. It is a God-created, God-honoring phenomena.
- However, the only permissible expression and gratifying of sexual desire is in the context of marriage between a man and a woman

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be undefiled*; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God

d. A wife is a blessing from the Lord

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

Reasons why a wife is a blessing:

- Companionship in life
- Physical intimacy
- Growing in the Lord together/sanctification
- Someone to compliment your weaknesses
- Bringing children into the world (if the Lord allows; or through adoption, foster, etc)
- Someone to learn with and from
- Someone to support you in suffering
- Someone who can cook better than you
- Someone to enhance your ministry
- Someone to laugh with
- Learning the masculine trait of protection

e. Marriage is the context through which children are to be brought into the world

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- Children are a blessing and gift from the Lord and marriage is one of the vehicles through which children are brought about

Psalm 127:3–5 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. ⁵ How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

f. Observations from Common Grace

i. Marriage and family are essential stabilizers to societies

Edward Gibbons wrote in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, five major reasons why the Roman Empire fell: First, the breakdown of the family. Second, increased taxation. Third, an insatiable craving for pleasure. Fourth, an unsustainable buildup of armaments. Fifth, the decay of religion.

ii. Marriage is often a motivation to righteousness, including unregenerate righteousness

When married, spouses often concern themselves with righteousness in the following areas:

- Learning self-denial and selflessness for another person; learning to think and care about more than oneself
- Sexual fidelity
- Financial stability
- Financial stability typically requires character development: self-control, personal responsibility to keep a steady job, communication skill (also to keep a steady job and learn to interact properly with a spouse)
- Pride of ownership (taking care of one's property)
- Having children also becomes a catalyst to righteousness and responsibility (e.g. responsibility to provide financially, the character necessary for a steady job, the pressure felt to instill character, work ethic, and morality in children)

iii. The institution of marriage serves as a guard-rail for human society to keep it from plunging into the depravity of which it is capable

iv. Marriage serves as a restraint, corralling society from plunging further downstream into our depraved capabilities

4. General marriage guidelines (from Scripture & logical inference)

- a. Scripture does not mandate a particular path to marriage (e.g. courtship, dating, arranged marriage)
- b. Though Scripture does not mandate a particular path, it does mandate the following for a man:

- i. Personal godliness

Philippians 2:12-13 ...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

- ii. Exemplifies biblical leadership characteristics

- Dependent upon the Lord but not overly needy
 - Walks with the Lord without having to be externally prodded
 - Self-control over his passions
 - Able to work hard and keep a job
 - The fear of God keeps him accountable to God's big priorities: holiness, work, local church membership, serving
 - Stays stead in affliction
 - Healthy, transparent relationships with other brothers
 - Takes care of himself physically

- iii. Standards for a future wife

- 1. Professes faith in Christ with credible testimony

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ Or

what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

2. Biblical standards

- Not requiring a female Jesus or a perfect Proverbs 31 woman
- Neither settling for someone who professes faith but no credible fruit (cf. John 15:1-11)

➤ Cautions:

Proverbs 7:24–27 Now therefore, *my* sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. ²⁵ Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. ²⁶ For many are the victims she has cast down, and numerous are all her slain. ²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 27:15–16 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike; ¹⁶ he who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

Proverbs 21:9 It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

3. Godly character

- She embraces God's good plan for women as mandated in Titus 2:4-5

4. Affirmed by godly Christians in her life

iv. Some ability to provide financially

A man is required to provide something for his household (1 Tim 5:8). Therefore, he should work hard prior to marriage

v. Accountability and involvement with a NT local church

Hebrews 10:24-25 let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

vi. Sexual purity (1 Thess 4:4-8, Heb 13:4)

- A man should be training himself to honor God sexually. Doing so will prepare him to honor his wife in marriage and resist sinning against his spouse sexually