



Community: It's Purpose, It's Power, and It's Promise!

Community in Marriage

My heart is overwhelmed by the failure of so many marriages. The pain and suffering I see overwhelms me.

So many of my friends are either divorced, being divorced, or they are in a marriage relationship that causes them great pain and suffering every day.

What is causing this and what is the solution?

- Arguments?

Finances

Time

Sex

Children

In-laws

Religion

We do live in a conflict dissolution culture.

- Unreasonable expectations?

We do live in a fantasy driven culture

- Selfishness?

We do live in a narcissistic culture

- Abuse?

We do live in a an abusive culture

- Infidelity?

We do live in a promiscuous culture.

- Lack of commitment?

After all, we did not really know each other. We were young when we married. People change. God would not want us to stay in an unhappy marriage. We do live in a disposable culture.

These are all very real and very painful problems that lead so many people to conclude that divorce and remarriage is the solution. It is also leading many people to just live in fornication.

What is the main problem?

Genesis 2:18-24

18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

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."

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.

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This story is frequently used at wedding ceremonies. It is a wonderful story that we used last week in our small groups. But the story is frequently taken out of context and used to support the false idea that God created women for man because man had an emotional need. He was lonely. It is frequently taught that man needed a companion to meet his emotional needs for a companion and the only one who could complete that emotional need is a woman.

The scripture does not say that God created woman for man because the man was lonely. It says that God created woman because the man He created was alone.

The context of the story goes back to Genesis 1:26-28.

[Genesis 1:26-28](#)

[26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue](#)

it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
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In Genesis 1 God said He created man and woman in His image to form a community that could fulfill His mission. His mission for them was to have dominion over the earth and everything in it.

Genesis 1 gives the six days of the account of creation.
Genesis 2 gives details to the account of the creation of woman that are not mentioned in chapter one.

Genesis 2 reveals that God created the first man before He created the first woman. In Genesis 2:18, God said it was not good for the man to be alone!

Prior to the creation of woman God saw that the first man would need the first woman and the first woman would need the first man to form the first community to complete the mission that He had for them.

The commission created a need for a community God called marriage!

The fall of man is described in Genesis 3. The fall of man compromised their mission. They lost their authority to have dominion. They were removed from the Garden of Eden. They became subjects of the earth rather than rulers of the earth.

There was no longer a divine commission to create community in their relationship. Their mission became whatever they determined for themselves. (Material; Physical; Emotional; Sexual).

The problems I listed above are very real. But the main problem is that people are getting married with their own personal agendas. They are not united by a common mission that they have received from God. They are not working together toward to fulfill the same mission. They are not experiencing God's blessing on their relationship.

What is that divine mission that God has for marriage?

Jesus Christ came to redeem us from the curse of the fall. He came to restore what was lost.
Rev 22:1-5

22 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night

there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

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2 Tim 2:10-12

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 This is a faithful saying:

For if we died with Him,

We shall also live with Him.

12 If we endure,

We shall also reign with Him.

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He promised His followers a new heaven and a new earth where we will reign with Him.

Until then Jesus has given all His followers a new mission on earth.

- Be conformed into the image of Jesus.(Romans 8:29)
- Make Disciples.(Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:2).

When this mission is shared by a husband and his wife it creates divine community in their marriage! God blesses these couples with unusual grace and peace in their relationships.

Community with another human being is an incredible experience. Even when the shared mission is temporal or material it produces a sense of belonging in the soul of men that is meaningful and powerful.

When a husband and a wife are committed to the mission of Jesus Christ, that experience of community has God's divine blessing and it transcends any other experience of community! The two are spiritual united as one. The two become one flesh.

Paul said do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

2 Cor. 6:14-15

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

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Many people falsely assume that their marriage is going to work because they are both believers in Jesus Christ. The problem is in the church today the church is filled with believing unbelievers. People have received Jesus as their savior but they are not believers in His mission.

Don't be joined to someone who does not share your mission. Paul said it would be better to remain single then to be married to someone who does not share your mission.

The main remedy for your marriage problems is repent of your sin and follow Jesus. Then embrace together the mission that Jesus has for you and never ever let anything else displace it. Don't let having and raising children displace it! Don't let the pursuit of money and the things that money can buy displace it! Don't let other relationships displace it! Give yourselves without reservation to your mission of being like Jesus and making Him known to others.

Start fighting together for Jesus rather than fighting against one another!

If you are committed to your divine mission but you are married to someone who is not, I am very very sorry. In 1 Cor. 7, for the testimony of Jesus Paul says do not depart from them. But Paul does not say compromise your mission for the sake of your marriage. If they choose to leave you be at peace.