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THE HONOUR OF BEING A WIFE AND A MOTHER Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 : 18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he 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,'
for she was taken out of man."*

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

INTRODUCTION :

Today, we'll talk about Mother's Day. We just read on how a woman was created from the rib of Adam.

One time, Adam was sleeping and suddenly, Eve slapped him in the face. Adam, woke up and surprised and he saw that Eve was mad. Adam was so confused and he asked, "Why did you slap me? Why are you mad right now?" Eve said, "It's because you have another woman." Adam said, "That's crazy, how can you say that?" Eve said, "It's because I know you had 24 ribs, I came from one of your ribs, it became 23 and then I counted your ribs while you were sleeping and now you only have 22 ribs...YOU HAVE ANOTHER WOMAN!"

Today, the world celebrates Mother's Day.

History : Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis on May 9, 1905 after the death of and it was celebrated with a worship service at the church where her mother has been teaching Sunday School. So the celebration of Mother's Day is now 120 years old.

No Offense to Mothers or to anyone in particular but let me give a gentle reminder that we are not here in church right now for mothers but we are here to worship the Lord and thanking Him that He used mothers in order to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

If you have a godly mother, you are blessed.

Let me share with you two quotes :

The first one :

“No man is poor who has a godly mother.” - Abraham Lincoln

True, it’s because if your mother is instrumental and who encouraged you to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and have a relationship with Him, then you wouldn’t need anything or anyone else, you have everything YOU NEED.

The second :

“An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest” – Spanish proverb

It’s because godly mothers are the ones who intercedes and prays for us more than anyone else here on earth. Of course, it’s our Lord Jesus Christ Himself who intercedes for us all the time.

Illustration : Perfect example is that just this week, my son and his family were travelling and my wife was always telling me, “I pray that they will be safe.” And then she will mutter under her breath, “Lord, please protect them.”

Today, we’re going to talk about the Honour of Being a Wife and A Mother.

What is the role of a wife and mother?

But before we talk about this, let me share these two verses to you.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

1 Corinthians 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

We have to remember that God is the one who designed marriage and the one who established family right from the very beginning.

Man and woman has been given a role to play in a marriage and in the household.

God has given man his role and God has assigned women their role. If the man and the woman follow God’s design, then there will be peace and order in the home.

Since today, we’re talking about mothers, let’s talk about HONOUR OF BEING A WIFE AND A MOTHER

Because to be a wife and mother, you are a Partner, Helper and Life-Bearer

I. PARTNER

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone

Quick context : I love this.

In Genesis 1, that's the story of God creating the heavens and the earth.

- When He created light, here is God's reaction. **The was the first day.**

Genesis 1:4 God saw that the light was good.

Etymology : Good "tob" - pleasant

- When He separated the earth, water and sky on **the second day**, here is God's reaction.

Genesis 1:10 And God saw that it was good.

- **Third day**, He created the plants – all kinds of them

Genesis 1:12 And God saw that it was good.

- **Fourth day**, He created the sun, moon, stars

Genesis 1:18 And God saw that it was good.

- **Fifth day**, God made all the living creatures, the animals, flying, on land and in the water.

Genesis 1: 21 And God saw that it was good.

Now listen carefully. On the sixth day, God created male and female.

*Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

In Genesis 2, that's the detail on how God created the first man and woman.

Remember, God created the man first from the dust of the ground and breathed on his nostrils.

Genesis 2: 7 Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Etymology : man "Adam", may be related to the Hebrew "Adamah" which means "ground"

And if you remember the story, God asked the man to work and take care the Garden of Eden. But when He saw Him all alone...what did He say?

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone

Remember, God was saying when He created everything... it was good, it was good, it was good, it was good, it was good....but when He saw man alone, **that's the first time God said, "NOT GOOD."**

So what did God do?

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he 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,'
for she was taken out of man."*

Note and Etymology : "woman" issa (ish-sha), **also means wife** in Hebrew.

So when God created the woman and gave Adam a wife, everything became complete and what did God say? Let's go back to Genesis 1

*Genesis 1:31 God saw all that He had made, **and it was very good.***

Etymology : Very good "me-od" "tob" – exceedingly, abundantly, good.

And afterwards, that's the time God rested. Everything was complete and perfect in God's sight.

Application : Remember, no sin has entered yet mankind. It was a perfect. And the relationship between husband and wife (Adam and Eve is still perfect). This means when husband and wife are living according to God's design and there's harmony in the home and in the household, God sees it as VERY GOOD!

And the Devil doesn't like it. He would want the man to be selfish and decide on his own or he would tempt the woman to be in rebellion to her husband. And that's when chaos gets in. Remember in Genesis 3, Eve was alone and was tempted by the devil and decided ON HER OWN.

MARRIAGE IS A PARTNERSHIP! GOD CREATED MARRIAGE TO BE A PARTNERSHIP.

As partners, we don't decide on our own without consulting either the husband or the wife.

That's why look at Genesis 1 again.

*Genesis 1: 26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

Who is the “they” here?

*27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Again, let me emphasize this again, MARRIAGE IS A PARTNERSHIP.

That’s why Paul writes before outlining the role of husband and wife in Ephesians 5 which I call the secret of a great relationship.

Ephesians 5: 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

That’s what partners do.

Remember, God is a God of order and chaos happens when we want to decide on our own, or insist our own way.

Illustration : I was counselling a couple who I will officiate the wedding next week and teaching them about marriage and family. One of the things that I asked them is finances. I asked them “Would your account be joined?” They thought about it and told them the importance that their account be joined and they agreed. It’s because so that both of them knows where the money goes – because it’s a partnership.

Quote : Dave Ramsey – a financial expert says

“If you’re married and keep separate finances, you’re not a team – you’re just roommates with wedding rings.”

Remember, husband and wife are partners. Partners do things together. Make decisions together. Plan together and etc.

Why? Because you are already one!

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Bible even says, you are co-heirs or partners and this is what happens when you don’t treat her like a partner.

*1 Peter 3:7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. **Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.** (NLT)*

But how can the wife be a good partner to her husband? By being his,

II. HELPER

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

When we hear the word “helper”, we always think of someone who is underneath us.

Illustration : I heard one person say before, that really ticked me, when he said in Tagalog, “Ang babae ay pang kama lang at pang kusina lang.” (A woman is only for the bed and for the kitchen.)

I pray that no follower of Christ here thinks about a woman that way, specially their wife that way. Remember in Ephesians 5, what did our Lord say? Yes, you are the head of the household, the leader of the household but the Lord said this :

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

LISTEN : Loving your wife is to sacrifice yourself for her, even your own needs and wants and even your pride to your wife. I say this to the husbands, **“if you do this”, it’s easy for the wife to submit to husband if they love her just as Christ loved us.**

Which brings us to the word “helper”

The word “helper” doesn’t mean you are secondary or inferior to your husband. Why? Three things! And the third one is the best.

1. **Logically :** If you’re helping someone, who is in a much stronger position?

Illustration : If you are in a boat and you hear someone shouting, “Help.” You see someone is drowning, who is in a much stronger position at that point? THE ONE HELPING!

Application : So if you see your husband drowning (not literally but emotionally or psychologically or financially), you will help him, not just leave him alone. You will be by his side.

Remember : The woman was created from the man’s side so she can be by his side specially during the times he is weak.

2. **Etymologically :** Helper literally means “help meet” in KJV
KJV :

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

Etymology : help meet for him “ezer neged” ezer... one who helps... neged... can be translated as “him” or “in front”

Someone who goes in front of him to help him.

(Show photo) I LOVE THIS PHOTO OF THE FEMALE WOLF UNDER THE NECK OF THE MALE WOLF.

The photo shows a male wolf being aggressive to another male wolf and the female wolf goes under the neck of the male wolf.

It shows that the female wolf is being submissive but at the same time covering the neck of the male wolf because that's the vulnerable part.

Application : We help our husband by being in front of him before God or by defending him and not disrespecting him or even putting him down during his times of weakness.

Remember the Proverbs 31 woman :

Proverbs 31 : 10 A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

*11 Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.*

***12 She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.***

3. Metaphorically : God is also described in the Bible as “ezer”

A few samples :

Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help (ezer) and our shield.

Psalm 121:1 A song of ascents. I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help (ezer) come from?

2 My help (ezer) comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

So you see to be given the role of “helper” to your husband is an honor.

III. LIFE-BEARER

Genesis 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

Etymology : Eve”hauva” k-hev-vaw – or Eva.. means “life” or “living”

What a wonderful honour, that it is through the woman that life is formed.

Men will never know the wonder of having a human life grow inside of them.

Illustration : When my first born was still inside the womb of my wife, my wife will call me when he's kicking. I can see the little bumps but I can never feel what my wife was feeling from inside. She would sometimes experience discomfort because our child will be either kicking or elbowing her so hard inside her womb

There's a reason why mothers are more compassionate to their children than men...because the word "womb" in itself "rekhem" comes from the word "rakham" which also means "mercy or compassion"

That word means a place where life is created and nurtured.

Rootword of Eva "eve" – k-hev-vaw comes from the word "k-haw-ya" (haya)
Interesting what it means, - ***to sustain life or to preserve life or even to revive from sickness or discouragement***

WOMB : It means, it is through the mother that children finds "mercy" or "compassion" (womb; rekhem) and are being taken cared of physically and emotionally – to nurture.

Scientific Illustration :

Oxytocin – that's what you call the "love hormone" or the "happiness hormone". In short, when you feel loved or happy, that's the hormone responsible for that.

Studies show that for children, they produce this hormone, "they feel loved and happy" when it comes to the fathers, when fathers play with them – that's how the connection is established.

But for mothers, the children produce oxytocin when their mother is cuddling with them.

It is through the woman that is given the privilege and main responsibility to nurture children.

That's why the Bible says

1 Timothy 2:15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

We can talk about at length in the future but it means, a woman's legacy is PRESERVED (saved; sothesetai) specially if they are a good and godly mother.

That's how the children will remember them well.

CONCLUSION :

TO THE WOMEN : Let us be thankful the Lord that you are given the honor to be the partner, helper of your husband and the life-bearer of children

TO THE MEN : Men, it doesn't mean to say that when your wife submits to your leadership means she is inferior or underneath you. Remember, God made her from your side to be by your side.

Quote : The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved. – Matthew Henry

Now I go back to the women, here is the reason a wife and mother is to be honored by God's grace.

Let me read to you the end of Proverbs 31 about being a wife and a mother.

Proverbs 31

26 She speaks with wisdom,

and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household

and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many women do noble things,

but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,

and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

S.G.D.