

Recap of 11/13/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti

1. *Marriage introduction:* - “Martin Luther called marriage ‘a school for character.’” Gary Larsen (Sacred Marriage) asks: “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” Larry Crabb (Marriage Builder), cites the following flaws in our contemporary view of marriage: - “An emphasis on becoming happy and fulfilled rather than on a need to develop a holy, obedient walk with God.” “Psychological needs replace fidelity to Scripture—the Bible, becomes an ‘optional guidebook. ...’thus, saith the Lord’ is replaced with ‘my needs aren’t being met.’”
-Any discussion about marriage, its definition, its participants, and how it works best, starts with a simple premise: society doesn’t define marriage...God does. We start a study of marriage with creation in Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25.)
2. *God created us with gender, male or female. Our gender is given us by God and is not incidental to who we are but is essential to who we are. “God creates humankind in His image, in His likeness.... Verse 27 clearly states that the distinction of the sexes (male and female) is also of divine origin. One’s sexuality is far from a biological accident.” (Victor P. Hamilton)*
 - a) “[Male and female] highlights the sexual distinctions within mankind and foreshadows the blessing of fertility (vs. 26).” (Gordon J. Wenham) “Our human sexuality, our maleness and femaleness, is not just an accidental arrangement of the human species, not just a convenient way to keep the human race going. No, it is at the center of our true humanity. We exist as male and female in relationship. (Richard J. Foster)
 - b) We are created to procreate. The reason for the distinction of the sexes is seen in verse 28; God blessed us with the ability to participate with Him in the creative act. One of the divine purposes of marriage is procreation.
 - c) In Genesis 2:18 Adam’s aloneness is cited. “Man needs a helper to care for the garden and to provide support in a general sense. But in light of the importance of the blessing in 1:28, most likely the ‘help’ envisioned is in the bearing of children. Furthermore, the woman’s judgment relates specifically to her role in bearing children.” (John H. Sailhamer).
3. *“Helper” is not a demeaning identification for woman. God Himself is called “help” or “helper” in Psalms 33:20; 70:5; 115:9.*
4. *In Genesis 2:24 God speaks and defines marriage as a monogamous, heterosexual, lifelong union. “The implication is that marriage involves one male and one female becoming ‘one flesh.’” (Dr. Allen Ross)*
5. *Genesis 3 illustrates the change that came into the creation and especially into the relationship of Adam and Eve, and their relationship with God. Their oneness was now interrupted by sin. They knew shame, lost innocence, lost companionship. God’s judgment upon the woman as a result of the Fall in Genesis 3:16 would directly affect the marital relationship. Her relationship with her husband would be distorted, there would be a constant battle for control of the family, competition, a need to win. There would be gender warfare.*