

In The Beginning God . . .

*An In-Depth Study of the
First Three Chapters of Genesis*

All Truth Begins Here



The Church & Marriage in Genesis 1-3

INTRO: There is no doubt but that these early chapters lay the foundation for marriage. The cause and purpose of marriage is stated retrospectively by Moses (under Divine inspiration) at the creation of Eve. Equally clear, though perhaps not as readily apparent, is the doctrine of the Church, for Paul likewise draws the Divine parallels under inspiration in Ephesians chapter five. We will consider these parallel truths in this study.

I. The Divine Institution of Marriage

- A. Moses' inspired comments are a retrospective commentary on God's purposes in the creation of Eve as a helpmate for Adam.
 - 1. *For this reason:* because God made them male and female to be together in a mutually complementary relationship
 - 2. *A man shall leave his father and mother:* the beginning of marriage establishes a new generation, a new family unit, which is independent of the parental oversight.
 - 3. *And they shall be one flesh:* while sexual union is undoubtedly included in this statement, it is far more encompassing and implies a oneness, a unity, a mutual dependence of love, support, purpose, and focus in life
- B. God's purposes for the married couple in Genesis, and the nature of their relationship, is clearly set forth at the end of the summary in chapter 1:28—their relationship constitutes a Divinely ordained partnership
- C. God's order in the home is clearly established in chapter two when he creates Adam first, and then Eve, and offers her to him as a helpmate
 - 1. Paul makes this quite clear, by inspiration, in I Tim 2:13 and in II Cor 11:8-9, Adam, then Eve.
 - 2. It is further established by the responsibility to provide, which is laid squarely at the feet of the man 1 Tim 5:8
 - 3. It is further solidified by the role of management that is given directly to the man (1 Tim 3:5)

II. The Divine Purpose in Marriage is Seen Most Clearly in Ephesians 5:18-33

- A. Marriage is a type of Christ and the Church
 - 1. It is in marriage that a man is able to reflect most clearly the care, provision, leadership, and love that Jesus has for His church as he gives himself to his wife for her highest good
 - 2. It is in marriage that a woman is able to demonstrate the loving honor and commitment that the Church has to Jesus Christ as she lifts up her husband to the world and follows his godly leadership
 - 3. It is in marriage and the family that a microcosm of the church can be seen as mutual worship and labor together, the birth of children and their nurture to maturity, demonstrates a pattern of the Church, joined to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, continually give birth to new spiritual children and together nurture them in the faith.
- B. It is in marriage in Genesis 1-3 that we see the future of the Church
 - 1. The Kingdom was lost in the fall, it is regained one person at a time in salvation
 - 2. As we, the Church walk with Christ, our heavenly Bridegroom, we gradually regain the dominion of the earth lost to the devil, Satan, in the capitulation of Adam
 - 3. In the marriage supper of the Lamb we see the redemption of the lost race and restored union with the risen Christ
 - 4. In the millennial Kingdom we see the earth fully under the rule of the Last Adam and His Bride the Church