

# Let The Bible Speak Series

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## The First Family

Gen. 2:26-28

The creation of Adam and Eve took place on the sixth day of creation week. They were given everything they needed to be happy: A home---Gen. 2:8 "The Lord planted a garden eastward in Eden, there he put the man whom he had formed," Food---Gen. 1:29-30 "And God said see, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air and every thing that creeps in the earth..." Purpose---Gen. 1:28 "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 ever-living thing that moves on the earth" Work---Gen. 2:15 "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it," A companion---Gen. 2:18 "It is not good for man to be alone I will make him a helper comparable to him," and Laws---Gen. 2:16-17 "And God commanded "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die."

These two would have been an attractive pair since the DNA was perfect and the gene pool pure. They were as physically perfect as anyone could be. They could not say they had bad upbringing or mean parents since God himself was their Father. Luke 3:38 "...the son of Adam, the son of God." Eve, however, was not satisfied with all God had given them, she wanted more. She hearkened to the voice of Satan, and carried his deadly and deceptive message to her husband.

Note sin's progression recorded in Gen. 3:6 "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." She **saw**, she **took**, she **ate**, she **involved others**. When questioned by God, instead of acknowledging their sin and seeking forgiveness, Adam blamed Eve, while Eve blamed the serpent. This failure was serious. They had gone directly against the instructions of God. The result: they died spiritually and physical death entered upon all of the family of Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve built their home outside of their now lost garden home. In time they were blessed with a son---Cain. Next to be born was---Abel. Cain became a tiller of the ground, and Abel a keeper of sheep. The family appeared to be doing well---but suddenly tragedy struck. Cain was moved by envy when he saw that God had respect unto his brother's offering, while his own was rejected Heb. 11:4. In anger he arose and killed his brother. The parents lost both sons that day. It would be difficult to think of problems that a family might experience today that this first family did not also have.

Death and sorrow entered the family. The home that Adam and Eve worked to build was again ruined. Another sad failure. Note: Both failures were the result of disobedience to the Lord's commands. (Eve's sin and then Cain's sin) Within the lives of this first family, we find God's order of family life and the roles of those who are apart of it.

### I. The Role of Marriage

Where did the idea of marriage come from? Sociologists are baffled by it, for it has no counterpart in the animal world.

a. God made both man and woman, in his image. Gen. 1:26

Both possessed a physical and spiritual nature. 2Cor.4:16 "But though our outward man perish, our inward man is renewed day by day."

b. God made them different, male and female.

Different but not inferior in every respect. The woman was the "weaker vessel" only in the physical sense. 1Peter 3:7

c. God made them for each other. Designed the relationship for both companionship and procreation. Nowhere does the bible teach that celibacy is a more holy state. "It is not good for man to be alone" Gen. 2:18. "Marriage is honorable in all" Heb. 13:4

d. The basic formula: Leave father, leave mother and cleave to wife, thus become one flesh.

1. Man and woman not two men or two women.

2. Anyone not mature or old enough to leave father and mother and make a separate home, not old enough for marriage.

3. Marriage intended for responsible adults. Cannot abdicate the responsibility of the relationship because things displease or dissatisfy us.

4. Marriage is a divine institution. It is more than a mere civil contract in which the state is involved. God, a man, and a woman.

### II. The Role of Man.

1. The breadwinner. Though there are times and occasions when the woman may be forced to work outside the home, it appears that God's original intent was for the man to be the primary breadwinner. Gen. 3:17-19 "Cursed is the ground for your sake, in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground..."

2. The head of the family. Eph.5:23 "Husband is the head of the wife even as Christ..." Every home must have a head. God appointed the husband to that role. An army without a head is a lynch mob, a government without a head is anarchy.

There must be some final say in the home, and scripturally that falls on the shoulders of the husband. Not only is the husband the authoritative head of the family, but he is the spiritual head as well. In this Adam failed to restrain Eve as she sinned in his presence and even followed her example. Gen. 3:6 indicates that Adam was there with Eve when she sinned. Instead of speaking up, he remained silent and even ate himself.

We need strong men today who not only do physical labor, but who protect their families spiritually, leading them by example Eph.6:4 "fathers provoke not your children to wrath..."

### III. The Role of Women.

1. Woman created as companion for man Gen.2:18 "...not good for man to be alone..."
2. A keeper at home Gen. 3:16 "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."
3. Because of her transgression and the order of creation, she is to be in submission to man. 1Tim. 2:12-14 "I suffer not a woman to teach nor have dominion over a man, but to remain in silence..." Note: Paul does not appeal to custom, but the order of creation. 1Tim.2:15 "She shall be saved in childbearing" This does not mean that a woman will only be saved if she has children, Rather, this a figure that means she will be saved if she remains in her God given role.

### IV. The Role of Parents and Children.

1. Work was given to the children Gen. 4:1-2 "...Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground."
2. Parents were never intended to be slaves to their children. Children were not placed in charge of the home.
3. We learn that the example set by parents is very important. Eph.6:1-2
4. Cain's example was still having consequences down to the forth generation as a descendant would use him as an excuse for a similar crime Gen. 4:23 "...wives of Lamech, listen to my speech For I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-seven fold." We can never underestimate the power a Godly example has upon a family.

### V. Lessons We Learn From The First Family.

#### 1. We learn of the devastating effects of sin.

- a. What sin caused in the lives of Adam and Eve:  
They lost their wonderful home in Eden where all needs were supplied.  
They lost their innocence, their freedom from guilt.  
They lost their ability to sustain life from life giving water and fruit.

Adam was given the task of providing for himself and family by the sweat of his brow. Eve was told that she would bring forth children in pain and sorrow.

- b. Families today suffer the devastating effects of sin:  
Families are torn apart by drugs, alcohol, murder, rape, incest, etc. Families are falling apart at an unprecedented rate, and the nation suffers the ills of a society in ruin. What a terrible mark sin is leaving in our world today.

## 2. We learn that marriage makes the husband and wife one.

In Mt. 19:3-9 Jesus goes back to the beginning and makes his appeal to God's stated will, regarding marriage. In this union the husband and wife are not their own, but they belong to each other; they constitute one body as does Christ and the church. Notice this beautiful relationship described by Paul in Eph. 5:28-32.

## 3. We learn that marriage is a life- long relationship

Today divorce has become a way of life, even in the church. The church in many ways is but a micro-cosm of the world. What happens there often happens in the church. Today, two of four marriages is broken by divorce. Of the two remaining, desertion takes its painful toll. Also of the two that stay together, many are emotionally shattered and functionally do not work. If three of four cars wrecked or three or four planes crashed, we would be alarmed. We should be alarmed at the break up of the family. Vows are taken lightly today by too many. At marriage a couple begin the journey that ends at the grave. Mt. 19:6 "What therefore God has joined, let not man put asunder." "Moses...suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." Mt. 19:8 Marriage is not a temporary arrangement, and it cannot be successful if the people involved enter it with reservations or time limits. A husband is to cleave to his wife. "Cleave" means "to bond" "adhere" or "glue" together so that nothing can separate. Couples must be committed to one another for life.

## 4. We learn that children can go bad.

The heartbreak and disappointment of children going bad was present in this first family. Abel was a good, honorable and obedient child. Cain, was disobedient, and became a murderer. Then Seth was born, Gen. 4:25. This son became the father of those who began to call upon the name of the Lord. In fact, Jesus Christ is descended through his holy lineage Luke 3:38.

How do we explain the fact that some children are good and others are bad? They live in the same house and grow up in same environment, yet turn out differently. We must remember that in the final analysis all humans have the power of choice. They can choose "life" or they can choose "death." They can choose to serve God or themselves and Satan. It is their choice.

## 5. We learn about the meaning of obedience.

Heb. 11:4 "And the Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering, but he did not respect Cain and his offering." Why? Abel offered by faith, Cain did not. Faith comes by hearing the word of God Rom. 10:17. The Lord must have specified what he wanted, and Abel followed these instructions, Cain acted out of rebellion and rejection of God's wishes. He dis-obeyed. In 1 Jno. 3:12 Cain's works were said to be evil and his brothers were righteous. Obedience is doing what God wants, as He wants it.

#### 6. We learn about anger.

When Cain did wrong and displeased God, he became upset. Actually God should have been upset. Cain directed his anger toward Abel. His brother was innocent. It is not unusual for the righteous to be hated without a cause. 1Jno.3:12 "Not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous." We need to be careful of anger.

The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Jas. 1:19-20 We cannot allow our anger to become envy or jealousy, both are works of the flesh. This is what Cain did. He could have allowed it to motivate him to do better, yet he let it lead him down the wrong path.

#### 7. We learn about sin.

God described sin to Cain as not doing well. "and if you do not do well"

It is a 1. transgression of God's law 1Jn. 3:4

2. an act of unrighteousness 1Jn.5:17

3. It is enslaving Rom. 6:12-18.

We have already seen the devastating effects of sin in this family when Eve ate of the forbidden fruit. Now we see it again in the life of her son, Cain. Sin always destroys. Every family touched by it, bears the marks of its devastating power. We can see our own families mirrored in the lives of this first family. Though the first, their successes and failures have been repeated in families down through the ages.