

- ✍ We've spent 4 weeks on the topic of immorality, and I think we can all agree that, that is a sin, that is very prevalent in our culture and our churches. Knowing that, it's fairly easy to deduce that institutional marriage isn't doing very well because there is so much sexual sin. Marriage is on the ropes in our culture and in our churches partly because of immorality, and we are all in need of godly, biblical instruction on the subject. How can married people survive in the moral climate that we live in today? Not just survive but thrive? The One who created us and created marriage is the only one who has the blueprints that can make that a reality.

1. Today we are going to start a three-part look at the blueprints for a happy home.

- ✓ We begin by taking a look at the original set of blueprints way back from the beginning, Genesis 2:18-25. Genesis 2:18, don't misread this and think that God is just realizing something, He's merely revealing a step in His plans that He'd always known. Has it ever dawned on you that nothing ever dawns on God? "Helper" is the title and job description for the wife, some don't like that title, it sounds like a servant to them. Helper suitable or equal to man. So, equal but not necessarily similar. "Helper" is not at all a degrading term, God is called "Helper" in the Old Testament Psalm 54:4; Hebrews 13:6. One of God's titles is "Helper" Psalm 33:20 "Jehovah Ezer". Genesis 2:19-25, there was no equal found for Adam, so God makes the only creature that was not created originally from dust, woman.

2. God's blueprints for marriage can be summed up in three words: leave, receive and cleave.

- 1) Leave, why? Because it is not good for a man or woman to be alone, Because the right man or woman is their counterpart and equal. Because it was planned this way from the beginning. Who do they leave? Father and mother = the most important relationship a person has outside of marriage is our parents. We leave father and mother because there can be no relationship that is above the marital relationship, so, we have to leave it in order to marry. When we get married we are leaving every other relationship (not that we are quitting anybody necessarily!) because we cease to be who we were, we were single; we are not that anymore, the two singles have now become one flesh. Therefore, we cannot relate to anyone anymore as we did when we were single, don't break this rule! Leave and don't go back or you will destroy what God has created. Leave physically, financially, emotionally, don't take your problems back to your parents, it's not their problems, they belong to the two of you. Parents, stay out of their business!
- 2) Receive, a lot of people never think this through: Adam and Eve got married the first day they met, no dating, no finding out their compatibilities, no sizing each other up. In our way of thinking, this should have never worked. In this is a huge secret of successful marriage, Adam and Eve did not know the hand that they were holding that day, but they did know the hand that was bringing them together, that is all we really need to know! We think that we really need to know each other when, in fact, we will never know enough or more than just simply knowing that God has placed us together. God allows Adam to survey all the animals with their mates so that he could feel how needy and out of place he was, then God put him to sleep, and he wakes up to Eve. Adam had no input, "that's not really what I'm looking for in a spouse" who told you to look? "You have to find the right person" is found nowhere in Scripture. What makes us think we have any say in such a crucial decision? Adam had to trust God. Adam did not know, nor had he ever seen Eve before, and vice versa. They received each other as husband and wife because they knew God. The first marriage; the original blueprints was not based on looks, performance or knowledge of anything other than they knew that God wanted them together. That is all you need to know!! God knows exactly what we need, right? Especially, in such an important decision as who we marry. Receive your mate as God's provisions for your needs, you cannot reject your mate without also rejecting God to a certain degree.