

Series – Jesus for My Family

#2 A Marriage that Rocks, Knows its Role

Matthew 19; Genesis 2; Ephesians 5

Introduction: Have you ever heard the word *apologetics*?

Imagine you're sitting in a coffee shop when someone at the next table overhears you mention your Christian faith. They lean over and ask, "How do you know Christianity is true?" In that moment, what do you say?

"Apologetics" sounds like one of those scary "smart Christian" words - something that pastors and leaders' study, but not everyone else. But apologetics is simply studying God and the Bible, to better defend it to those with questions.

Apologetics may be simply defined as the defense of the Christian faith. Let me be clear we don't have to defend Jesus, the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah.' Lions don't need defending. Christian apologetics helps believers stand firm in their faith, engage skeptics with confidence, and share the Gospel message effectively in a culture filled with competing worldviews.

One of the clearest calls to engage in apologetics comes from 1 Peter 3:15: ***"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*** (NIV)

The first known example of Christian apologetics is in Acts 2, after the Holy Spirit falls upon the church at Pentecost, Peter gives a sermon to the Jewish audience. After explaining how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, he declares, "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

People often have questions and make statements about marriage, like:

1. Jesus never defined marriage as one man, one woman.

When Jesus talked about married people, he spoke of "a man ... [and] ... his wife" in Matthew 19:5 and Mark 10:7.

Jesus went on to use the language "... the two shall become one."

Jesus quoted the text of Genesis 2:24 as the foundation of His teaching on marriage. This is the biblical doctrine of "origins." Jesus even used the clause "from the beginning it was not so" when talking about divorce.

What does this mean? It means that in the teaching of Jesus, if you want to have a true and pure understanding on the ideals of marriage, you go to "the beginning."

This is also echoed by the Apostle Paul in his teaching on marriage in the book of Ephesians, chapter 5. What you have in Genesis is one man, one woman and a God-sanctified marriage covenant that, according to Jesus, is intended to last a lifetime (Mat. 19:8).

2. Jesus never specifically mentioned homosexuality in His teaching on marriage, so we should not make a big deal about it either.

People love to do this with Jesus. Unfortunately, it's a logical fallacy, and it would be incredibly inconsistent and even destructive to do this with zillions of other things that Jesus doesn't mention either.

Imagine someone doing that to you. You didn't say anything about one element of a subject, so that means that you don't care or have an opinion about it.

The fact is, Jesus doesn't have to disaffirm anything to affirm God's original intent for marriage.

To suggest that he does would be like you asking your wife or mother, "Hey, what's for dinner?" She answers, "spaghetti, not roast beef, not turkey, not pizza, not hots dogs or hamburgers, not corn on the cob, uh, —oh I don't want to leave anything out, and not lasagna. I sure hope I mention everything that is NOT for dinner, so you won't be confused about what **IS** for dinner.

By affirming "what was from the beginning," Jesus is defining marriage in God's ideal terms! Jesus doesn't have to disaffirm anything (which would be impossible since there are so many aberrations). He only must affirm one thing—and Jesus did that.

Another key observation is that any time Jesus mentions a husband, He mentions a wife. And any time He mentions a wife, He mentions a husband.

Jesus taught that a husband belongs with a wife, and a wife belongs with a husband. A husband is a “he”—and a wife is a “she.”

3. Jesus was never married, so He was obviously indifferent to marriage.

The argument goes like this: Jesus, by not getting married, was minimizing the relationship in favor of a more general value of love. Jesus explained why He was not married:

For the son of man has come to seek and save that which was lost. —Lk. 19:10

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me. —Jn. 6:38

It is true that during His earthy ministry, Jesus did not get married. But there is New Testament imagery of Jesus being a “bridegroom” (male person in a marriage) who is preparing to come for His bride (female person in a marriage).

There can be no more clear indication of God’s ideal design for marriage than the imagery and symbolism tied to Jesus’ ultimate relationship to the church.

Turn with me to Matthew 19 and let’s read what Jesus said about marriage.

Matthew 19:3-6 says, “Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ 5and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? 6So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” **Let’s PRAY**

Today is the second sermon in our family series: “**Jesus for My Family.**” Last week we talked about “Jesus’ care and compassion for women.” The title of today’s message is: “A Marriage that Rocks, Knows its Role.” R...O...L...E

To say that something or someone “rocks” is a casual and informal way to express that we think somebody or something is amazing, wonderful, and great.

I want to show you what the bible says about making your marriage rock.

STORY: A man goes to a tool store to buy something to cut down trees. The server sells him the top-of-the-line chainsaw, saying that it will cut through over 100 trees in one day.

The man takes the chainsaw home and begins working on the trees but after working for hours he only cuts down two trees.

Next day the man brings the chainsaw back to the store and says it doesn’t work properly.

“Hmm, it looks okay,” says the server, and starts the chainsaw.

The man jumps back in shock and cries, “What’s that noise?”

Understanding how things work is vital. What God says about how a marriage works is the only way to have an awesome marriage. It matters to everybody, because in this world you have men, and you have women. You have moms, and you have dads. You have husbands, and you have wives. You have boys and you have girls. The more that we understand about one another the better we are.

The Scripture tells us in the book of Genesis on day six He formed from the dust of the ground every beast of the field and the cattle and the creeping things of the earth - insects and scorpions and weird stuff. He created all that on day six. And then on day six, the last thing He created, was man.

Genesis 1:27 says, ***"And God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him male and female He created them."***

There are three things we need to learn from the creation of male and female.

I. **Lesson number one: God made man before He made woman.**

God makes Adam from the dust of the ground. The Hebrew word for ground is *adamah*. And so, God names this person, man - Adam because he came from

Adamah, the dust of the ground. And what does God do when He creates Adam? He gives Adam a job. Verse 8 says: ***"And the LORD planted a garden toward the east in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed."*** verse 15: ***"Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and to keep it."***

And then in verse 18, we hear these shocking words. ***"It is not good..."*** First time we hear God say, "It is not good." In Genesis chapter 1 we read six times, as God is creating: ***"And it was good. And it was good. And it was good. And it was good. And it was good. And it was good."***

Every time God would create, He'd go, "That's good." And now, suddenly, here you have a perfect man in a perfect garden with a perfect God in a perfect place, and He says, "It's not good." What's not good? **It's not good that the man should be alone.**

God made man first, but God made Adam, with an unmet need. He was alone. Isn't that interesting?

And so, then, God did something wonderful to meet that need. Verses 21 and 22: ***"So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man."***

The LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man. Did you know there was a Scottish doctor who lived in the 1800s? His name was James Simpson. And he was the one who first began to use chloroform in his practice because he was a Bible believer and he said, "This idea of doing surgery on someone and telling them 'take a shot of whiskey or bite on a bullet, because this is going to hurt,' he said, "There's got to be a better way to do this. And he read how God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam. And he said, "That's it!" And he came up with using chloroform to put people into a deep sleep so you could perform surgery.

Think about the fact that God caused deep sleep to fall on Adam, to pierce his side and take a rib. ADAM'S DEEP SLEEP IS A PICTURE OF JESUS' DEATH. Jesus

side was pierced, and the bible says that blood and water flowed out. And from that Jesus bride, the church was formed. God brought Eve to Adam as a picture of bringing the Church to Jesus. Marriage was not an end to itself. God created it to point to a higher reality-Christ's relationship to His church.

But here is God performing the first surgery on Adam. He takes out a rib and makes Eve. The first lesson we learn is God made man before He made woman.

II. **Second lesson: God made woman for the man, suitable yet different.**

Paul talks about that in First Corinthians 11:9. He says, "***For indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake...***"

You don't need a medical degree to figure out there's a difference between a man and a woman. Everybody recognizes the obvious differences, right? But how about some differences that we don't obviously recognize?

A. ***Eve is MADE differently from Adam.***

Men are made from the same stuff that the animals are made from - the dust of the earth. Eve is not made that way. God performed a surgery on the man. And out of the man He takes a bone, and begins to fashion this beautiful creature, known as woman. Now notice this: The Bible doesn't say God formed woman. The Bible says God fashioned the woman. She's totally different. That's why they're so much more delicate than a man.

A man's like a pair of blue jeans. He's durable. He's denim. You just throw it in the washer. It doesn't matter. She's not blue jeans. She's a silk blouse. What do you normally see on the tag in a silk blouse? Dry clean only! Don't wash it with denim.

Now here are some of the differences that we don't see with the naked eye. Men, on average, have 4.5- 6 quarts of blood while women have 3.5- 4 quarts. He's got a lot more blood than she does. He has a million more red blood cells than she does, so he has a bigger capacity for energy.

Forty percent of a man's body weight is muscle. Twenty-three percent of a woman's body weight is muscle.

A man is 10-15% taller and heavier than a woman. A man is 30% stronger in his upper body. A woman's skin is different. She has added insulation cells in her skin which makes her skin softer, which also makes it harder for her to lose weight.

The man's bones are heavier, and his skull is thicker. You already knew that.

B. Not only is she made differently, but she THINKS differently.

A woman tends toward the side of the brain where she's very emotional and in touch with her feelings and she's very good verbally. It doesn't mean a woman can't be logical, but she's more emotional. And so, we look at things totally differently. And the way that a man's brain is wired, he compartmentalizes.

You want to see what a man's brain is like? *(Show a picture of a waffle)* It's like a waffle; you have these little compartments? There's a compartment for football, a compartment for baseball, and then there's a compartment for racing, and then there's a compartment for hunting, fishing, etc. You say, "Why don't they put them all into one sports category?"

No! We have little boxes for all these different things. There's also one little box in there titled, "Nothing!" Just a box for nothing, a wife will ask her husband sometimes, "Hey, what are you thinking about?" "Nothing, just thinking about nothing!"

What's a woman's brain like? It's like this. *(Show a plate of spaghetti)* It's like a plate of spaghetti. Everything is touching. There are no separate boxes. Women are in here today thinking if they left the iron or the stove on. They're thinking about lunch. They're thinking about their kids in the nursery. They're thinking about what they must do this afternoon. They're thinking about all this stuff. Their brain sweeps like a radar signal.

Because we think differently, we see things differently, and so a woman responds differently from a man. Men are very visual, and women, are very verbal.

How often do you see a beautiful woman with a guy that's been beaten with an ugly stick. Truth be told, most of us guys marry out of our league.

Women get together and talk. What do guys get together and do? We do something physical. We hunt. We fish. We play golf. We build or fix something.

III. Lesson number three: God made men and women different so He could make them one.

The Scripture says when God brought the woman to the man, it says in verse 23, ***"And the man said (in the New Living translation), 'At last! This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Wow!'"***

Genesis 2:24 goes on to say, ***"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*** God made us different, so we could be one.

Adam and Eve are both created in God's image. They both were body, soul, and spirit, but they have different attributes and different strengths. A man is protector/provider. A woman is naturally a nurturer, a carer and a sharer.

Together they're a great team. God made us different so He could make us one.

Transition: John Grey wrote several books, one of them, Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus. In one of his other books, he wrote about how in his counseling, he discovered that there were men who were married to women that looked like models, but these men lost complete interest in their wives. They were not attracted to them. John Grey thought this was strange, so he did some research, and discovered that for a man to be attracted to his wife for the long haul, the man must connect with his wife on four levels. There's the emotional level, the intellectual, the physical, and what do you think the fourth level is? The spiritual level!

Could it be that our Creator designed us in such a way that for us to experience true intimacy there has got to be more than just physical attraction?

TRANSITION: **Someone said there are three rings in marriage. First there's the engagement ring. And then there's the wedding ring. And then there's the suffering. [EXPLAIN]**

Did you know if you want to have a marriage that rocks you must learn your role?
God set up the blueprint of marriage, He set it up so that the man has a role and the woman has a role in marriage. Now in our world today we have people that say, you know, "Throw out all those outdated things and let's come up with a new blueprint for marriage where you don't have roles."

Can you imagine, you want to run a successful company, but there will be no defined roles. Everybody just does everything. Or you're going to have a football team. Who's the quarterback? We're all quarterbacks. Well, who's going to block? Well, we all block. We all throw the ball. We all catch the ball: that doesn't work. You must have guys that block. You must have somebody that's going out for a pass.

It doesn't work in business. It doesn't work in sports, or in any aspect of life, to NOT have clearly defined roles.

And when God ordained and set up marriage, when He brought the woman to the man and said in Genesis 2:24, ***"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."***

God established marriage with clearly defined roles; roles for the man, roles for the woman; responsibilities for the man, responsibilities for the woman.

Before I get specific, let me read some verses from Ephesians, chapter 5:

"1Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

15Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit...20always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Instructions for Christian Households

21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30for we are members of his body. 31“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (NIV)

I. What is God's role for HUSBANDS?

A. Husbands LEAD.

He's the leader. Ephesians 5:23, ***“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”***

He's the head. Jesus is the leader of the church. He's the Good Shepherd.

What kind of leader is the man supposed to be? He is not to be a dictator. He's to be a servant-leader.

The disciples were having an argument one day over who was the greatest. And Jesus broke into their argument and said in Luke chapter 22:25-26; ***“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. 26But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest***

among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." (NIV)

Jesus said, ***"I didn't come to be served but to serve", "and to give my life a ransom for many."***

In John chapter 13 at the last supper, Jesus began to wash the disciples' dirty feet. That was the job for the lowest of the low.

The husband, the head, the leader is to be a servant leader, and he is to serve his wife. He's to serve his family. It means he helps her. He helps her around the house. He helps her with the kids. He's an example to her. He makes home a godly place, and a safe place.

If you've ever played tag, you know that one of the first things you do is you pick a place to be home base. You can't get me out when I'm at home. It's a safe place. Home is supposed to be a safe place.

Illustration: Listen to this quote from a Hollywood icon who lived some years ago. She said this: "Millions of words have been written on how a man should love a woman. I would like to give you my reflections on the things a man should not do in loving a woman. First, don't yield your leadership. That's the main thing. Don't hand us the reins. We would consider that an abdication on your part. It would confuse us. It would alarm us. It would make us pull back.

Quicker than anything else, it would fog the clear vision that made us love you in the first place. Oh, we will try to get you to give up your position as number one in the house. That's the terrible contradiction in us. We will seem to be fighting you for final authority on everything for a while, but in the obscure recesses of our hearts we want you to win. You must win, for we aren't really made for leadership. It's just a pose." That Hollywood icon was none other than "Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Wizard of Oz, Judy Garland.

She had 5 husbands and 4 divorces. She fought for the reins, although she didn't really want it. Men don't abdicate your leadership. Husbands LEAD, and secondly...

B. **Husbands LOVE.** The husband is to be the prime leader and lover.

Eve was made from Adam's rib, not from his feet, not from a bone in his foot. She was taken from his rib, from his side, near his heart, so that she would be loved and protected.

Ephesians 5:25, which is the great passage in the New Testament on marriage, says: ***"Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."***

God goes on in the next nine verses to say two more times that a husband is to love his wife. Now, if God says something once, it's important. If He says it three times in nine verses, it's huge! The Lord said, "I laid my life down for the church." You lay down your life in loving your wife.

Notice with me four things about love.

1. ***You love her by Cherishing her.*** That's holding her close. She's my lost rib. I hold her close, and I cherish her.

You know, a good way to cherish your wife is to praise her a lot.

2. ***You love her by Including her.***

You include her in your life. It's a known fact women talk much more than men. And men do most of their talking at work. And they come home, and they're talked out, but she wants you to talk so that she can be included. And she wants you to listen to her. Very important, guys, we need to listen to our wives because God gives your wife wisdom that He doesn't give you.

3. ***You love her by Providing for her.***

4. ***You love her by Protecting her...physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc.***

II. What is God's role for WIVES?

A. Wives be his HELPER.

there's no getting around the fact that God says, ***"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable to him."*** And He created woman. He created

Eve. She is the helper suitable for him, corresponding to him, one who's like him, but not the same as him.

Now immediately when some people hear that, "Well, I got a lousy deal." Just so you know, the word helper, as it's used here, as it's indicated and meant here by God, doesn't mean it's a menial, meek position.

Helper is not a lowly term. Helper is a lofty term. It's not a subservient term when the Lord says, "I'm going to make a helper suitable."

Jesus said in John 14:26: ***"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* (ESV)**

There's total equality in the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Helper. That's His role.

Titus chapter 2:3-5, gives a job description for a woman. ***"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."* (NIV)**

Margaret Meade, who is an American cultural anthropologist and has studied cultures her whole life, said this: "Women are happiest not when given position and power, but when the created contributions of the maternal role are upheld; when being a wife and mother are viewed as important and respectable."

So, how do wives help their husband.

1. Wives help your husbands by RESPECTING him.

In the famous book, "Love and Respect," the author breaks down the problem in marriage to two words - love and respect. Husbands are supposed to love their wives. A wife is supposed to respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:33(as it's summing up the whole relationship between the husband and wife), ***"And let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."*** That word for respect means "to be in awe of her husband." How does a husband spell love? Same way Aretha Franklin does – R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Men need respect from the most important person in his life, his wife.

A husband is supposed to love his wife. A wife is supposed to respect her husband. Now here's where everything breaks down. When the husband does not show love to his wife. She might start to disrespect him a little. And he doesn't want to come home to that. He can stay at the office or hang out where people respect him.

2. Wives help your husbands by Following his Lead.

His job description from God is to be the head, to be the designated driver. Now listen, ladies. That does not mean you follow him into sin. That does not mean you're a doormat. It does not mean that you let him abuse you. You're allowing him to be the leader. And some guys aren't good leaders, and they need lots of prayer, and they need lots of grace, and they need lots of help.

And that's where faith comes in and it causes a woman to trust God. And God will honor that, and God will bless that. But you help him by following him.

3. Wives help your husband by Encouraging him.

Proverbs 12:4 says, "A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones." (NIV)

There's not a man on the planet that doesn't want to hear from his wife that he's the champion of her heart. No one that can encourage a man like his wife can.

Hey, ladies, God created you with such a critical role, to be helper, to come alongside, to render aid, to be a wife, to be an encourager and to make a difference. And if you want to be fulfilled in life, then follow God's role.

CONCLUSION:

Remember men, God says it three times, "Husbands, you love your wife. Husbands, you love your wife. Husbands, you love your wife. Don't just tell her at the wedding, "I love you, and if I change my mind, I'll let you know." Every day tell her, nourish her and cherish her. She needs that. That's the way God made her.

And, wives, respect and encourage your husband, He needs that. He needs you to be his biggest cheerleader, and his biggest fan.

Now I want to close with this because it's very, very interesting. Adam from *adamah*, the ground. Guys, you are the soil. Your wife is the flower. If your wife is not blooming, is it her fault or is there something wrong with the soil? Are you not building her up? Are you not loving her? Are you not leading her? Are you not getting her the things that she needs to grow and to blossom? It's a big responsibility. That's why in Ephesians 5, before God talks about the husband loving his wife, and the wife respecting the husband, he says, ***"Do not be drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."***

Do you want your marriage to ROCK? Yield to the Lord and start fulfilling your ROLE. That's what God will hold you accountable for.