

The Foundation of the Home

Genesis 2:18-25

May 5th, 2013

Series 4

Several months ago, Kory and Katie asked Celisa and me if we minded to drive a short distance from our house to look at a house that they were looking at to possibly purchase. They had described this house and acreage and how it seemed to be the perfect house. We were so excited for them and so honored to go see the house they were considering. Kory shared that one of the things they would have to do if they purchased it was to add gutters to it. Whoever built it had never put gutters on the house. If you are a dad, you know the concern I immediately had for an older house that didn't have gutters. We drove up to the property and it was beautiful. While everyone was viewing the inside and premises of the house, I was finding that opening in the foundation. While everyone else was inside or outside, I was underneath the house. After being married as long as I have and having a dad who had built homes in the past, I knew the importance of the footer and the foundation. I was looking for cracks, mold, and water.

The Foundation

As we follow the blueprint that we have laid out, we want to make sure that our home has a proper foundation. I think the Bible teaches us that foundation that is necessary for every dream home. If you are single and contemplating marriage, please pay close attention. If you are in a married relationship, please use this lesson to crawl under your home and examine the foundation. We know that if the foundation of a physical house is correct, it can withstand the tornadoes and storms that come to our

houses that are built on the fault line of Western KY. Our weather is always changing, just as the weather in your homes is always changing. It is vital that we examine the foundation. I believe this passage will reveal that the foundation of our home is the husband-wife relationship. We have already learned that the footer is the most important relationship in the home. It is the relationship each man and woman has with Christ. When it comes to the human side of the home, the primary relationship is the husband-wife relationship. All others must be secondary.

Scripture

"Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

- **In the Beginning**

In Genesis chapter 1, after the third day of creating, God said it is good. After examining His creation, He is declaring it is good. When we come to the end of creation week, day six, God decides to make a being unlike any other on the planet that will mirror His likeness and His image. He decides

to make mankind, male and female. The Bible says that when God created man in the male-female relationship to bear His image and likeness, He declares that it is very good. Wow! Then God rests.

In Genesis chapter 2, we get a different perspective of creation. We get the perspective of God creating man out of the dust of the ground and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. Then man becomes a living being, a living soul. He is a body, soul, spirit being. He is a psychological being that uses his body to relate to the world around him and his spirit to relate to God. He has been given a beautiful garden to oversee; he has great responsibilities, and great hobbies. But for the first time, Scripture says that God said it is not good. If we believe that during creation week God created human beings, male and female, then we must suppose that it started out good, then it wasn't good, and then it was very good. It's good, it's not good, but in the end, it's very good. So when is it very good? It is very good when God realizes that man is alone and is in need of a helper who is comparable to him. Genesis 2 teaches us this principle.

Please be careful here. In Genesis chapter 1, you get the thought that God creates man in male-female relationships so that they can be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and that is true. If you take that principle by itself, you would make the principle of marriage be about having children and filling the earth. So if you turn to Genesis 2 with that thought, you could come up with the idea that the reason Adam needed a wife was so that he could have children and fill the earth. That is true, but in chapter 2 we have a fresh angle in the creation story. It is about man not having a companion. It is about him having this great responsibility of worshipping God, obeying God, and tilling the garden. But all around him, the other animals in the animal kingdom, which have also been created from the ground, are in pairs. So Adam sees all of these animals and has responsibility of naming them. As they come before him, he sees them as male and female. After they were all brought before him, Adam realizes that he is the only one like him. There are two of *them*, and two of *those*,

two of every one of them, but when it comes to him, he is alone. And God said it is not good.

❖ **Comparable Helper**

So God decides to make a helper. This word "helper" is a word that is primarily used in the Bible to talk about God helping man. But it also talks about when the military helps a king or a nation. I want you ladies to understand that this word "helper" in no way implies that you are inferior or second rate. As a matter of fact, the language in the Hebrew puts the helper on equal status with the one being helped. It basically means that without the helper, the other cannot do what he has been designed to do.

If you are a wife, you should feel special to know that your man cannot do what he's been designed to do without you. Some of you know that! The older I get, the more Celisa realizes that she is my helper. She won't let me do anything without thinking that I need help. I get ready to drive to the hospital in Nashville and she doesn't think I can make that trip without her. When I go check the cows in the mornings, she wants to know if I need help. I struggle to convince her that I don't need help. But in all reality, I know that I do need help. That is why I have my wife, and it's why you men have a wife. As a man, I think one of the most macho things you can do is to admit that you need help. Quit trying to do it by yourself. Understand that God still believes, in your particular case, it is not good for you to be alone, and you need a helper.

This preposition "for" means this helper has been specially designed for you, the man. God put Adams to sleep and he woke up and said, "Wow." I love that part. If you've ever been one my wedding ceremonies, you've heard this me say that about what the groom is thinking when he sees his bride for the first time! When studying for this lesson, I read a Hebrew scholar that I have never read before. He said this word means does mean wow, I love it! We have to be careful with our English translations because sometimes, to smooth things out, they say that Adam said "*this is now bone of my bones...*" But get this picture, he had been looking at all of

these animals and there was not one of them like him. All of a sudden, he went to sleep, woke up, and in front of him is Miss Universe. He went, wow! But the next thing he said was *"This at last is bone of my bones...!"* Thank you God! At last, one just like me, *"...bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh; she shall be called **Ishah**, (Woman) because she was taken out of **Ish** (Man)."*

Sometimes I like to call Celisa *Ishah*. I don't like to talk about my woman because it doesn't sound polite to me. There used to be a man who came to Brown's Grocery store and I never knew his wife's name. He just always called her his woman. I had rather say she is my *Ishah*! Ladies, you are the female version and you've been designed by God to be his helper. Please understand that. It's taken a long time, but I can now say that Celisa has found the ultimate satisfaction in being my wife. That may drive some of you ladies crazy, but let me tell you that you will never find fulfillment as a Christian lady until you come to that place to understand your importance. In no way does this imply that the man is superior or that you are inferior, but it displays the wisdom of God.

Building Blocks of the Foundation

I believe the husband-wife relationship is the primary relationship and it's the foundational relationship of the home. According to the Bible, this relationship is established this way, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."* This means that if you were to crawl under your house, there is a good chance that you probably have three rows of blocks under you subfloor on top of your footer. That bottom block is about twelve inches wide, and block on top of that is about eight inches and so is the next block on top of that. We start building the foundation on these blocks.

I have been under my house several times. Celisa always has me clean under the house in the spring. I don't understand that, but we do. I wonder who messes up under the house every year! But I always find something that I didn't find the year before. When I clean under the

house, I look for cracks and termites. I sure wish we had added another couple of blocks to my foundation. When you're my age and you have to get on your belly, it's just not pretty! Now, there are three blocks that are the foundation in your relationship with your spouse.

1. Leaving

2. Cleaving

3. Becoming One

The Bible says, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother..."*

- **Leave**

Remember, this is a patriarchal society when this was penned by the hand of Moses. This word "leave" in the Hebrew literally means, 'to abandon or forsake.' But there is no English translation for this, because we know that is not what the author of Genesis was trying to declare. He was trying to say that marriage and the relationship you have with your wife is primary over the parent-child relationship. But it is as if you abandoned or forsook the parent relationship. We know that Scripture teaches us as Christian children to honor our parents, but when we get married and begin a home, the primary relationship is no longer parent-child; it is husband-wife. All other relationships are now secondary.

Today, most of us don't leave from our parent's house to a new house. We go to college or own apartment. So you may need to translate this as leaving your buddies. There should not be a man who has a better relationship with his buddy than he does his wife. There should not be a man who has a relationship at work that is better than the relationship he has with his wife. If the primary relationship in your life is not with your wife, you have a crack in your home. It may not show up yet, but it will show up. When that foundation cracks, the children's room, the kitchen, the bathroom, every room in the house will be affected by the crack in the husband-wife relationship.

Parents, listen to me. You have to let go and you kids have got to turn loose. You have to turn loose of daddy if you are a daddy's girl. You have to turn loose of mama if you are a mama's boy. As hard as it will be, you have to cut those apron strings. If your primary relationship is going to be mama or daddy, you don't need to marry. If you are already married and mama won't let go, then you turn loose. You can do it in an honoring and respectful way.

I read about a man who gave his daughter a way in her wedding ceremony. The couple went on their honeymoon and then moved away because of his job. Two weeks later she called home and said, "Daddy, I want to come home." The dad said, "Honey, you are home." Now I'm not talking about an emergency situation where a life is being threatened or there's a risk of harm. But when you get married, considering mom and dad's home as your home is not an option. Am I clear? You don't have the option of going back home to mama and daddy. Your primary relationship is with your spouse because when you left mom and dad, you cleaved to your spouse. The first leaving requires a choice. If you aren't going to make the choice of putting your spouse first, you don't need to be married. If I can be honest, we don't need you to bring children into the world.

- **Cleave**

So if you choose to leave your parents and begin a home, cleaving requires a commitment. In the Hebrew, "cleave unto" means 'to be glued.' I had the idea that glue was something relatively new, and I wondered if this word really means to stick. But when I did historical research, I found that we have archeological evidence of glue from the beginning of time. Our great, great, greats were far smarter than we thought they were! "Cleave" isn't the picture of a meat cleaver that cuts something apart. It is actually the picture of two things getting stuck together, and to be stuck requires a commitment.

Early in our marriage, many times we would have a discussion. I have told you before that we never fight. We've had a few discussions but it's not

our fault the neighbors could hear us discussing things! I can't count the times during a discussion that she would look at me with that look of hers and say, "Well, you are just stuck!" Man...stuck is usually not good! I remember one time I was racing my motorcycle and I had lapped the field. I was a full lap ahead. It was motocross outdoors, it was muddy, and I was good in mud. There was a big hole in the middle of the track right before the finish line, and I went right in the middle of it and got stuck. Mud was up to the seat and I was humiliated. Everybody passed me. My dad, with a stern look on his face, helped me get the motorcycle out of the mud. The other day, I almost got the tractor stuck. I don't like to get stuck. But there's one place I want to be stuck, and that is with Celisa. When my motorcycle got stuck, I knew my dad could bail me out. When I almost got the tractor stuck, I knew we could have pulled it out. But if there is one place I cannot ever get out of, till death, it is my relationship with my wife. So getting out is never an option. Now, we have always been truthful with you as a pastor's family; we considered death many, many times! To be stuck means that I have to be sticky. It means I have grabbed a hold of, and I am not going to let go. Not matter what the circumstances; I am going to fight because I am in a relationship that God doesn't want me to get out of. This has to be the belief we hold to.

You have heard of a starter home; one that you start out with in when you marry. Psychologists in America are now using the term, 'starter marriage.' God help us when we go into marriage just to try it out; God help us! I read a statistic that said 1 out of 2 marriages in America end in divorce. But in a marriage where both are Christians who go to church, have devotions, pray, and worship together, the divorce rate drops to 1 out of 1105!

- **Become One**

The last block is becoming one. I leave, I establish a primary relationship with my spouse, and we become one flesh. There was a time when the church thought that to become one flesh we had to consummate the

marriage on the wedding night with sexual intercourse. I do not believe the Bible is teaching that, primarily. God did not make us as just a physical creature. He made us a psychological being that has a physicalness in which we relate to the world around us. And we have a spirit in which we relate to God. The Bible teaches that God designed that we become one in marriage. So if God made man to be physical, spiritual, and psychological, then it makes sense to me that He would want man to become one with his wife physically, spiritually, and psychologically.

❖ **Physically One**

To become one, we need to marry someone who we are physically compatible with. It is really hard to stick together and become one if you aren't compatible. One of the biggest mistakes I see young people making is choosing to marry someone that they aren't compatible with. It has disaster written all over it. I'm not saying it won't work out in the end because God may redeem him or her. But if He doesn't, there will be a consequence to you. If you marry him in that un-redemptive state, there will be a consequence as a wife.

You need to like to do things together. It's not about picking out the most handsome guy or the most beautiful girl. But that was our main criteria when most of us chose our spouse. He's a hunk! She's gorgeous! After several years of marriage, there is something about the hunkeness that just disappears. He used to have hair, or he didn't used to have those pounds around the middle! Physicalness is about having things in common. How can you become one in life if you never spend time together?

Celisa and I have invested a lot of money in horses, then motorcycles, then horses again, then 4-wheelers, and then horses again. We always bought high and sold low. My investment portfolio didn't look too good. You might think we were unwise. But we were very wise because we have always done things together since we have been married. We tried each of those things and it didn't work out for one or the other of us, but we finally settled on cows! Now that doesn't mean we don't still have some

discussions. When we head to the barn, we have to decide who is going to be 'boss' for the day; me or her!

❖ **Spiritually One**

Spiritually, do not settle for someone who is on a spiritually lower level than you are. There will be a consequence to you for the rest of your life. Young men listen, she may not consider your spiritual state right now, but the day will come in your marriage when her most fervent prayer will be that you are a spiritual, godly leader in your home. Please, choose a spouse who will be spiritually and psychologically comparable to you. Understand that she becomes your body and you become her head.

Adrian Rogers told a story about one of his deacons. The deacon went home one day and his little boy was being disrespectful to his mama. Now, I know many of you men have seen your child being disrespectful to their mama and you have said, "Don't talk to your mama that way!" But this deacon was wise enough to look at his son and say, (and this is good) "Nobody talks to my wife that way!" Can you imagine what would happen in the home if dads reminded their children that she isn't a mommy first? She is a wife first. And God help the wives who think they are mommies or grandmas before they are wives! God help the husbands who think they work for a company first!

I want to call a time out and say, when we are at work, let's be at work. Let's turn the cellphones off and quit talking to our spouses. But once we get off work, the primary relationship we have is with our spouse. Do you hear me?

❖ **Psychologically One**

Now, the Bible says they were both naked and unashamed. For those of you who are married, do you remember when you first got married having that awkwardness of showering? You might have hung the towel on the shower door so that you weren't easily seen? You wanted to hide. Can you imagine a marriage where we aren't ashamed of our actions, our attitudes,

and our behaviors, and we lived fully exposed to each other? That is intimacy. That is what your wife desires with you; to be one with you. I pray that is what your husband desires with you; to be one with you.

If you have discovered that your foundation has a crack; then spot the crack. Is it a leaving problem, a cleaving problem, or a becoming one problem? Once you know which it is, you need to confess it, repent of it, and accept God's grace and forgiveness. Then practice the principle of leaving, cleaving, and becoming one. Then you can remodel the foundation of your home.