

Marriage-Love or Covenant Based?

Dr. David Shaw

Genesis 2:18-25

1. Marriage is the DOING of God to the Glory of God. Genesis 2:24 - A man shall leave his Father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
Leaving father and mother and holding fast to a new union is meant to display something very special (Ephesians 5:31, 32). Marriage is not about staying in love. It is about covenant keeping.
2. Genesis 2:25 says: "And the man and the wife were both naked and were not ashamed." What is the point of the verse?
 - A. Did they both have perfect bodies?
 - (1) Perfect bodies on the outside don't cover up flaws on the inside
 - (2) Since these verses were meant to point past the days of Adam and Eve, they must point to commitment and not physical perfection
 - (3) Verse 24 is the relationship where verse 25 can happen. Shame free marriage happens only in commitment.
 - B. The point is fullness of covenantal love. Freedom from shame comes from covenant reasons: I am imperfect but I have no fear of being disapproved by my spouse.
3. The Tree. Genesis 2:17 "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." When this takes place in Genesis 3:3:5-6, several things take place...
 - A. Verse 7 – "Then the eyes of both were opened and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." The foundation of covenant – keeping love between a man and a woman is the unbroken covenant between them and God. **GOD GOVERNING**
 - B. Vulnerability to shame makes us vulnerable to Satan's plan to our desire to be central and selfish. Both Adam and Eve were guilty.
 - C. Genesis 3:7 says that they tried to cope with the situation by making clothing. In Genesis 3:21 God also made them clothes. In a very real way, Adam's attempt and Eve's attempt at clothing represented an attempt to close the gap between what they were and what they ought to be by covering what was and presenting themselves in a new way. This was HYPOCRISY!

God rejected their own self-clothing but showed mercy with superior clothing.

God's superior clothing is a daily reminder of the need for the display of the mercy of His righteousness.