

Sermon Notes for June 5, 2011

## A Biblical View of the Home Sermon Series “How God Made Men” Genesis 1:26-28

### Introduction

#### A. Today, We Begin A New Sermon Series On The Family.

1. Some startling statistics:
  - a. almost 43% of all marriages end in divorce
  - b. believers are now getting divorced more often than unbelievers
  - c. one quarter of believers have been divorced two or three times
  - d. the divorce rate has doubled since 1960.
  - e. 83% of all Americans are concerned about the moral condition of our country.
  - f. the number of these cohabitations has increased tenfold between 1960 and 2000.
  - g. for the first time in our nation’s history, there are more couples living together who are unmarried than married.
2. Not only does our nation need to hear clear teachings from the Bible about the family, **so does the church.**
  - a. One of our core values here at Christ Covenant is a “commitment to the family”
    1. the husband as the head of the home
    2. the wife as his helpmate
    3. children living in obedience
    4. a family where Christ is honored, followed and served
  - b. during this sermon series, I want to
    1. remind you of Biblical teachings about the family
    2. instruct you in Biblical teachings about your particular role in the family
    3. and let you know what God has in mind for the family
3. Ultimately, my goal is to help you become the kind of family that is blessed and brings a blessing to those around you
  - a. this is why we study the Word of God
  - b. this book gives us direction and hope about the family

#### B. Today, We Will Look At How God Made Men

1. “Obviously,” all husbands are men.
  - a. today we want to look at how did God create man?
  - b. and also see how is man different from women?
2. my hope is that by understanding how God made man
  - a. men will understand themselves better
  - b. and their wives will understand, not only their husbands but their sons as well
  - c. video

## I. THE SPIRITUALITY OF MAN

### A. GOD MADE MAN TO BE SPECIAL

1. one of the real problems that I have with evolution is that man is the “last one created” in the evolutionary chain.
  - a. if you look at the “evolutionary line” from the first amoeba to man:
    1. amoeba
    2. protozoa
    3. amphibians
    4. reptiles
    5. mammals
    6. dinosaurs
    7. birds
    8. primates
    9. man
  - b. thus, man becomes the “last one in the evolutionary chain”
    1. the last one in this “accidental process”
    2. the obvious conclusion of evolution is that man has no meaning and no purpose other than being at the “head of the food chain”
2. the Bible, however, teaches that man was God’s greatest creation.
  - a. man was distinct from the rest of creation
  - b. for, unlike the rest of creation, God made man to be:
    1. able to talk, converse
    2. able to reason, to make plans
    3. able to think abstractly, to create
    4. able to appreciate beauty, to feel emotion
    5. able to be morally conscious
  - c. **Francis Schaffer - “The Christian knows that in the flow of history, man comes from a different origin.** It is not that God has not made both man and the great machine of the universe, but that he has made man different from the rest of the universe. And that which differentiates man from the machine is that this basic relationship is upward rather than downward or horizontal. **He is created to relate to God in a way that none of the other created beings are.”**

### B. GOD MADE MAN TO BE SPIRITUAL

**Genesis 1:26a – “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness,”**

1. **HOWEVER, THE ONE THING THAT SET MAN APART FROM ALL OF CREATION WAS HIS ABILITY TO KNOW GOD!**
2. Genesis 1:26 says that God made man into “His own image”
  - a. to be made into God’s image meant that man would be able to relate to **GOD IN THE SAME WAY THAT GOD COULD RELATE TO MAN!**
    1. no other creation that God made could do that
    2. only man could relate in a personal way to God
  - b. **THIS WAS HOW GOD MADE MAN!**

1. **SO, IF GOD MADE MAN “THIS WAY, THEN MAN WAS MEANT” TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**
2. so, whatever man is; whatever man does, he “needs” to be in a relationship with God if his life is ever going to “make sense”
  - a. this is what is wrong with so many men
    1. as Augustine once said, “Every man has a heart-shaped vacuum and only God can fill it.”
    2. that “vacuum” is a hole left because of our sins
  - b. so, men try to fill this hole with all kinds of things
    1. work
    2. sports
    3. relationships
    4. family
    5. success
    6. money
    7. marriage
  - c. **Rock Hudson** – “I have spent a great deal of time trying to figure out what life was all about. I still don’t know.”
3. let me tell all of the men here today
  - a. God made you and only **He** can fill you
    1. **NOTHING ELSE CAN FILL THAT VOID**
    2. I know that each of you men have tried to fill it – **BUT YOU CAN’T, CAN YOU?**
      - a. my story, early in my marriage
      - b. illustration of Henry Ford fixing a model T
  - b. not even a good wife, a good marriage, and a good home can fill that void
  - c. in some ways, man is “trinitarian” like God.
    1. **I Thessalonians 5:23** – “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole **spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
      - a. body – the physical
      - b. soul – the emotional
      - c. spirit – the spiritual
    2. most men take great care of their physical and emotional sides, but many neglect a third of their make-up, the spiritual (3 legged stool)
      - a. men, think of how much time you take to take care of your emotional needs
        1. time off
        2. enjoying your hobby
        3. going on vacation
      - b. think of how you take care of your physical side
        1. getting enough sleep
        2. working out
        3. watching what you eat

- c. however, how much time DO YOU DEDICATE TO YOUR SPIRITUAL SIDE?
  - 1. THAT IS WHY MEN ARE CONFUSED
  - 2. THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE A “HOLE IN YOU SOUL.”

## II. The GENDER OF MAN.

### A. GOD MADE MAN TO BE MALE AND FEMALE

**Genesis 1:27** – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** He created them.

#### 1. PLEASE NOTICE THAT GOD MADE MAN TO BE MALE AND FEMALE!

- a. THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE GENDERS!
  - 1. there are men
  - 2. and there are women
  - 3. AND THEY ARE NOT THE SAME!
- b. thus, there is no such thing as:
  - 1. unisex
  - 2. “a man with feminine side”
- 2. let me say it again, there are two genders made by God
  - a. there is the male
  - b. and there is the female
- 3. due to the women’s liberation movement in the 70’s and 80’s, men began to feel “guilty” about being a man
  - a. men weren’t “sensitive” like women; they didn’t “communicate” like women; so, many taught that men needed to get in touch with their “feminine side”
  - b. at that time, two movements helped change this view.
    - 1. **The Promise Keepers movement**
      - a. all over the country, Christian men met in huge stadiums with other men “to be men”
      - b. men began to feel OK about being a man and NOT a woman
    - 2. **the “Wild At Heart” movement**
      - a. in his book, “Wild At Heart”, author, John Eldredge, dealt with some of the problems that crept into our male society
        - 1. the feminization of men
        - 2. that masculinity had become a “condition to be cursed”
        - 3. that “little boys” were in big trouble and needed to be taught feminine qualities
        - 4. as a result, men and boys were bored because they didn’t know who they were

- b. while there is plenty in this book to disagree with in his book, I believe that Eldredge “struck a nerve” in the heart of men.
  - 1. men needed to know that it is OK to be a man and to embrace all that it means to be a man
  - 2. obviously, many men agreed as 500,000 copies of the book were sold

## B. How DID GOD MAKE MAN?

### 1. There are physical differences between men and women:

- a. Men and women differ in **every cell of their body** – this is caused by a difference in chromosomes
- b. A woman has a **greater constitutional vitality than a man**. Therefore, she usually **out lives men** by four or five years
- c. A woman’s **metabolism is usually lower than a man’s**.
- d. Women have a **shorter head, broader face, less protruding chin, shorter legs and a longer trunk**
- e. Women have a **larger stomach, kidneys, liver and appendix**. They have **smaller lungs**.
- f. Women’s bodies have several body functions not known in men – **menstruation, pregnancy and lactation**.
- g. Women bear **children and are able to feed them**
- h. A woman’s **thyroid gland is larger** and more active than a man’s
- i. Men are **50% stronger than women**
- j. A woman’s **heart beats more rapidly** than a man’s (80 versus 72)
- k. A woman is **able to stand high temperature more than a man**
- l. **The first finger of a woman’s hand is longer than the third; with men, the reverse is true.**

### 2. there are emotional differences between men and women

#### a. in relationships:

- 1. men need one or two major relationships in their lives
- 2. while women need multiple relationships in their lives
  - a. James Dobson – his daughter’s “level of friendships”
  - b. watch women who are out with other women at a meal – if one goes to the bathroom, they usually all go to the bathroom
  - c. A guy named **Brian** is attracted to a woman named **Elaine**. He asks her to a movie and she accepts. They have a pretty good time. A few nights later he asks her out to dinner, and again they enjoy themselves. **After a while neither one of them is seeing anybody else.**

And then, one evening when they’re driving home, a thought occurs to Elaine and, without really thinking, she says it aloud: **“Do you realize that as of tonight, we’ve been seeing each other for exactly six months.”**

And then there is silence in the car. To Elaine, it seems like a very loud silence. She thinks to herself: Gee, I wonder if it bothers him that I said that. Maybe he's been feeling confined by our relationship; maybe he thinks I'm trying to push him into some kind of obligation that he doesn't want, or isn't sure of.

And Brian is thinking: **Gosh. Six months!**

And Elaine is thinking: But, hey, I'm not so sure I want this kind of relationship, either. Sometimes, I wish I had a little more space so I'd have time to think about whether I really want us to keep going the way we are, moving steadily toward. . .I mean, where are we going? Are we just going to keep seeing each other at this level of intimacy? Are we heading toward marriage? Toward children? Toward a lifetime together? Am I ready for that level of commitment? Do I really even know this person?

And Brian is thinking. . .so that means it was. . . let's see. . . February when we started going out, which was right after I had the car at the dealer's, which means. . .lemme check the odometer. . .**Whoa! I am way overdue for an oil change here.**

**And Elaine is thinking: He's upset. I can see it on his face.** Maybe I'm reading this completely wrong. Maybe he wants more from our relationship, more intimacy, more commitment; maybe he has sensed – even before I sensed it – that I was feeling some reservations. **Yes, I bet that's it. That's why he's so reluctant to say anything about his own feelings. He's afraid of being rejected.**

And Brian is thinking: **And I'm gonna have them look at the transmission again.** I don't care what those morons say, it's still not shifting right. And they better not try to blame it on the cold weather this time. What cold weather? It's 87 degrees out, and this thing is shifting like a garbage truck, and I paid those incompetent thieves \$600!

And Elaine is thinking: **He's angry.** And I don't blame him. I'd be angry, too. I feel so guilty, putting him through this, but I can't help the way I feel. I'm just not sure.

And Brian is thinking: They'll probably say it's only a 90 day warranty. That's exactly what they're gonna say, the those thieves!

And Elaine is thinking: Maybe I'm just too idealistic, waiting for a **knight** to come riding up on his white horse, when I'm sitting right next to a perfectly good person, a person I enjoy being with, a person I truly do care about, a person who seems to truly care about me. **A person who is in pain because of my self-centered, school-girl romantic fantasy.**

And Brian is thinking: Warranty? They want a warranty? I'll give them a warranty. I'll take their warranty. . .

"Brian," Elaine says aloud.

**"What?"** says Brian, startled.

"Please don't torture yourself like this," she says, her eyes beginning to brim with tears. "Maybe I should never have. . . I feel so. . ."

(She breaks down, sobbing.)

**"What?"** says Brian.

"I'm such a fool," Elaine sobs. **"I mean, I know there's no knight. I really know that. It's silly. There's no knight, and there is no horse."**

**"There's no horse?"** says Brian.

"You think I'm, a fool, don't you?" Elaine says

**"No!"** says Brian, **glad to finally know the correct answer.**

"It's just that. . .It's that I. . .I need some time," Elaine says.

There is a 15-second pause while Brian, thinking as fast as he can, tries to come up with a safe response. **Finally, he comes up with one response that he thinks might work.**

**"Yes,"** he says

(Elaine, deeply moved, touches his hand.)

“Oh, Brian, do you really feel that way?” she says.

“**What way?**” says Brian

“That way about time,” says Elaine

“**Oh,**” says Brian. “**Yes.**”

Elaine turns to face him and gazes deeply into his eyes, causing him to become very nervous about what she might say next, **especially if it involves a horse.**

At last she speaks.

“**Thank you, Brian,**” she says.

“**Thank you,**” says Brian

Then he takes her home, and she lies on her bed, a conflicted, tortured soul, and weeps until dawn, whereas when Brian gets to his place, he opens a bag of Doritos, turns on the TV, and immediately becomes deeply involved **in a rerun of a tennis match between two Czechoslovakians he never heard of.** A tiny voice in the far recesses of his mind tells him that **something major** was going on back there in the car but he is pretty sure there is no way he would ever understand what, and so he figures it’s better if he doesn’t think about it. **This is also Brian’s policy regarding world hunger.**

The next day Elaine will call her closest friend or perhaps two of them, and they will talk about this situation for **six straight hours.** In painstaking detail, they will analyze everything she said and everything he said, going over it time and time again, exploring every word, expressions and gesture for nuances of meaning, considering every possible ramification. **They will continue to discuss this subject, off and on, for weeks, maybe months, never reaching any definite conclusions, but never getting bored with it either.**

Meanwhile, Brian, while playing racquet ball one day with a mutual friend of his and Elaine’s, will pause just before serving, frown and say: “**Norm, did Elaine ever own a horse.?**”

b. in **tasks**

1. men are usually task-driven, and not relationally driven
  - a. men's view of shopping resembles his view of hunting – go, and kill, and then, go home
  - b. I talked to my daughter, Beth, about her two children; one, a girl; the other, a boy.
    1. her daughter loves to shop and spend time with her friends
    2. her son wants to play, the second he gets up in the morning:
      - a. he loves to build
      - b. his play drill
2. at church
  - a. when trying to get men together for a church function, men usually don't want to sit around and talk about their lives
  - b. instead, they want to “do something together” – thus, our Affinity groups
    1. hunt
    2. fish
    3. play golf

c. with **focus**

1. men can usually focus on “one thing at a time”
  - a. most men are not multi-taskers
  - b. in some way, men work “within a box” and stay in that box until they go to “another box!”
  - c. **Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti** – Bill and Pam Farrel. Women have a hard time believing that a man can think of “only one thing at a time;” women ESPECIALLY have a hard time believing that there is nothing actually “in the box.”

“Not all of the wordless boxes have thoughts, however. **There are actually boxes in the average man's waffle that contain no words and no thoughts.** These boxes are just as blank as a white sheet of paper. **They are EMPTY!** To help relieve stress in his life, he will “park” in these boxes to relax. Amazingly, his wife always seems to notice when he is in park. She observes his blank look and the relaxed posture he has taken on the couch. She assumes this is a good time to talk as he is so relaxed, and so she invariably asks, “What are you thinking about, sweetheart?”

He immediately panics because he knows if he tells the truth, she will think he is lying. She cannot imagine a

moment without words in her mind. If he says, “Nothing,” she thinks he is hiding something and is afraid to talk about it. She becomes instantly curious and mildly suspicious. Not wanting to disappoint his wife, his eyes start darting back and forth hoping to find some box in close proximity that has words in it. If he finds a box of words quickly he will engage his wife in conversation and both will feel good about the relationship. If he is slow in finding words, here suspicion fails to be extinguished, and he feels a sense of failure. He desperately wants to explain to his wife that he sometimes just goes blank. Nothing is wrong, nothing is in denial, and nothing is being hidden. This is the way he has been his whole life, but she cannot imagine it.”

2. women are better at multi-tasking and “multi- thinking”
  - a. Interstate system (women); one road (men).
  - b. my daughter, Beth, is a phenomenal multi-tasker.

### III. The PURPOSE OF MAN

#### A. GOD GAVE MAN A NOBLE TASK

**Genesis 1:28** – “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**”

1. to show you how “noble” man is, look what God asked man to do
  - a. God had created this planet
    1. with all of its foliage
    2. with all of its animals
    3. with all of the people who would live there
  - b. **AFTER HIS CREATION, GOD ASKED MAN TO TAKE CARE OF IT ALL!**
    1. THIS IS A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY!
    2. what “other job” could be bigger than this?
    3. this, “once again” reveals the great value that God placed on man
2. WE MUST REALIZE THAT GOD WOULD NOT ASK MAN TO DO SOMETHING THAT GOD HAD NOT “EQUIPPED” MAN TO DO
  - a. so, it is my belief that God “equipped” man with a passion and ability to “want” to take care of the planet
  - b. man was called to “**subdue**” and “**rule over**” the planet
    1. **subdue**
      - a. keep under
      - b. bring into subjection
      - c. make subservient
    2. **rule**
      - a. have dominion
      - b. take
      - c. reign

- c. so, God made man to subdue the earth and He gave man the inner passion and ability to do so

## B. GOD GAVE MAN A DESIRE TO WORK

### 1. THIS IS WHY MEN ARE SO OBSESSED WITH WORK!

- a. in every man, there an innate desire and passion to:
  - 1. produce
  - 2. subdue
  - 3. bring things under control and submission
- b. a man at work looks at his work this way:
  - 1. he evaluates what he is called to do
  - 2. he then thinks:
    - a. how can I “take control” of this job?
    - b. how can I “subdue” this task?
  - 3. it is in the deepest part of man to be a “producer”
    - a. if a man does not “produce,” he will feel like a failure
      - 1. **Dr. Leon Morris** – “It is noteworthy that, even in the perfect world as God made it, **work was necessary for man’s good**. The ideal world is not one of idleness and frolic, but one of serious activity and service.”
      - 2. **Tim Lahaye, Understanding the Male Temperment**  
“The well-known Puritan work ethic so ridiculed by today’s humanists is not just an “ethic.” **It is a work compulsion—productivity. Deep within every man is a God-given necessity to work, to accomplish, to be productive.** It may surprise you to know that this has nothing to do with sin or the Fall, **but is a part of the Creator’s design in the male being.**”
      - 3. **Lahaye** goes on to say: “Of my thinking you can be certain, it is **impossible for a man to accept himself unless he is productive.**”

### b. MEN MUST BE PRODUCTIVE IN EVERYTHING THAT THEY DO!

- 1. yardwork
- 2. fixing things around the house
- 3. his hobbies
  - a. fishing
  - b. golf
- 4. man must be productive EVEN IN HIS RELATIONSHIPS!
  - a. man is a producer: a “fixer”
  - b. so, women, that is why your husband wants to “fix” whatever struggles you are having

1. a wife mentions a problem. The man goes into his innate “producer mode”
2. after the wife shares her problem and the husband tries to “fix it,” the wife goes away discouraged – “Because all she wanted to do was “talk” about her problem.
2. SO, women, please don’t fault your husband for “being a producer”
  - a. **THIS PASSION TO PRODUCE WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY GOD!**
  - b. however, men, I am not giving you an excuse to be a “workaholic” or a “golfaholic”
    1. as we will see in a few weeks, because of your sin, you will “overproduce” and over subdue”
    2. what I want from women is an understanding about the true nature of men and boys

### Conclusion:

1. **First of all men, I want you to know that God made you to be spiritual**
  - a. please don’t keep looking to fulfillment in your work, your hobbies or even in your family
  - b. **NOTHING WILL FILL THAT VACUUM IN YOUR LIFE BUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**
    1. THIS IS HOW GOD MADE YOU
    2. you are trying to put water in your gasoline tank and expecting it to run
    3. only Jesus can fill you
2. **Second, don’t apologize for being a man**
  - a. go fishing and get so dirty and smelly that you have to throw away your clothes
  - b. go to a NASCAR race and feel the energy produced by watching men race those powerful cars around a track at 200 m.p.h.
  - c. go watch a “guy movie”
    1. bombs going off
    2. lots of noise
    3. and the guy saves the day
  - d. and mothers, please don’t try to make your little boys into little girls
    1. let him play in the mud
    2. let him make a gun out of sticks
    3. let him put on a cape and be superman
    4. **Dr. Anita Sethi** – “As a good postfeminist-era mom, I certainly didn’t push my son toward trucks and my daughter toward tutus. If anything, I **went out of my way** to avoid giving them gender-stereotyped toys, offering glittery finger paint to my son and trains to my daughter. **But it didn’t matter: My son turned his doll’s crib into a race car and my daughter was obsessed with shoes.**”

- e. “Walking down Franklin Street in downtown Richmond the other day, I saw a beautiful thing. It was a pickup truck, shiny and new, parked beneath an oak tree near the First Presbyterian Church. **This truck was a beauty, a Ford F-350 Super Duty, Special Amarillo Edition. Four-wheel drive, heavy-duty suspension, all-terrain tires, extended cab with four doors, a bed liner and chrome running boards all combined to make this a dream machine for pickup truck fanatics.**

But here’s the best part. The truck was painted “construction” yellow, like a new bulldozer or backhoe. The Ford emblem on the tailgate had been painted over. In its place stood a single word: **Tonka.**

**I was soooooo jealous.**

### **3. Third, let me say a word to both husbands and wives**

#### **a. wives, please, please encourage your husbands in their work and their play**

1. God has made your husband to have a passion to work, to produce, to achieve
  - a. like it or not, most men get their identity from their work
  - b. as absurd as that may seem to a woman, that is the way that men think
  - c. so, when you put down your husband’s work, you are putting him down your husbands
  - d. BE YOUR HUSBAND’S GREATEST FAN AS HE GOES OFF TO WORK EACH DAY**
2. God has also made men to produce even in other parts of their life
  - a. yardwork
  - b. hobbies
    1. encourage your husband to have a hobby
    2. and encourage him to enjoy it
      - a. my wife and my golf – my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday
      - b. many wives discourage their husband’s hobbies

#### **b. husbands, if God made you to produce, then produce!**

1. **AND PRODUCE IN EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO!**
2. look at
 

**Colossians 3:22-23** – “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,**”

  - a. Paul was talking to believers who were slaves
  - b. and Paul was saying to these people; if you are a slave, then be the best slave that you can be **ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD!**
  - c. men, do you realize that when you work to the best of your ability, God is honored
  - d. in a sense, excellent work is a form of worship?

4. A man came across three masons who were working at chipping chunks of granite from large blocks. The **first mason** seemed unhappy at his job, chipping away and frequently looking at his watch. When the man asked what it was that he was doing, the first mason responded, rather curtly, **“I’m hammering this stupid rock, and I can’t wait ‘til 5 when I can go home.”**

“A **second mason**, seemingly more interested in his work, was hammering diligently and when asked what it was that he was doing, answered, **“Well, I’m molding this block of rock so that it can be used with others to construct a wall. It’s not bad work, but I’ll sure be glad when it’s done.”**

“A **third mason** was hammering at his block fervently, taking time to stand back and admire his work. He chipped off small pieces until he was satisfied that it was the best he could do. When he was questioned about his work he stopped, gazed skyward and proudly proclaimed, **“I am building a cathedral to the glory of God.”**