

Sermon Notes for June 26, 2011

**A Biblical View of the Home Sermon Series**  
**“The Biblical Calling Of Wives”**  
**Genesis 1-2**  
**Selected Scriptures**

**Difference Between Men And Women**

A man walking along a California beach found a bottle. He looked around and didn't see anyone, so he opened it up. A genie appeared, thanked the man for letting him out of the bottle, and said, **“I am so grateful to get out of that bottle that I will grant you one wish. I'm sorry, but I can only grant one.”**

The man thought for a while and finally said, “I have always wanted to go to Hawaii, but I've never been able to because I don't like to fly. Airplanes are much too frightening for me. And on a boat, I see all that water and become claustrophobic. **So I wish for a road to be built from here to Hawaii.”**

The genie thought for a few minutes and finally said, **“No, I don't think I can do that.** Just think of all the work involved. All the pilings needed to hold up a highway. . . and how deep they would have to go to reach the bottom of the ocean. And imagine all the pavement that project would take. **No, your wish is just too much to ask.”**

Disappointed, the man pondered the genie's reply for a while and then told him, “There is one other thing that I have always wanted. **I'd like to be able to understand women.** What makes them laugh and cry? Why are they temperamental? Why are they so confusing sometimes? **Basically, what make them tick?”**

The genie considered the man's second request for a few moments and then said, **“So, do you want two lanes or four?”**

**Introduction**

**A. UNDERSTANDING A WOMAN**

**1. I DO NOT CLAIM TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN!**

- a. I have been married for some 37 years and I am still learning about women
- b. when I do pre-marital counseling, I want the men to realize that they too, do not and will never understand women
  1. I will often ask the wife-to-be what she wants her future husband to be like. She will often share her list of the “ideal husband” that he will be:
    - a. gracious
    - b. loving
    - c. understanding
    - d. Godly
    - e. relational
    - f. a good provider
    - g. a good dad
    - h. balanced and considerate

2. very often, the eyes of her fiance becomes very big – as if he knows that he can never meet her expectations.
- c. on one of my first dates with my wife – Jane
  1. I asked her what she wanted in her future husband
  2. she listed about 10-15 characteristics “without batting an eye.”
  3. I then told her that I thought that the man she was looking for had died some 2000 years ago on a cross
2. I am not even sure that women understand other women
  - a. very often in pre-marital counseling, I will ask the women if she understands other women
  - b. very often the woman says no – so what chance do we men have to understand women?

## B. UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF A WOMAN

1. while I do not understand women, God’s Word helps us to understand the heart of a woman, and especially the “heart of a wife.”
  - a. if you look at this Book and study how God made women, you can understand their heart
  - b. there are two groups of women that I want to speak particularly to today
    1. **one**, I want to speak to those young women who are not yet married – to help you understand what you are looking for when you get married
    2. **two**, I want to speak to those who are already married – so that you will realize if you are getting God’s best in your marriage
2. so, with this in mind, let us look at how and why God made women

## I. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAN

### A. God’s CREATION OF MAN

1. PLEASE NOTICE HOW GOD MADE MAN:
 

**Genesis 2:7** – “**the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

  - a. God made man before He made woman
    1. yes, man was made before woman BUT MAN WAS MADE BY GOD!
    2. man did not make himself
    3. no man can truly say that he is a “self-made man”
  - b. and God made man “from the dust”
    1. how proud can man be when he realizes that he was made from common, ordinary dirt!
    2. **Dr. Mayo** of the famed Mayo Clinic once described the elements that make up the typical man. He said you would need enough **potassium** for one shot of a toy pistol, enough **fat** for seven bars of soap, enough **iron** for one large nail, enough **sulphur** to delouse a dog, enough **time** to whitewash a chicken

coup, enough **magnesium** for one dose of medicine and enough **phosphorous** for a few boxes of matches! **The total purchase of all of these elements would not fill more than a couple of grocery bags.**

2. so, what can man be proud of?
  - a. God made man
  - b. and God even made man out of dirt!**

## B. God's CALL OF MAN

1. however, despite man's "humble creation," God gave man a most noble calling **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."
  - a. God called the man to **subdue** the earth and **rule** over it
    1. in other words, God called man to be the vice-regent over all of His creation!
    2. essentially, man was called by God to take care of this planet!
  - a. Now, God would never ask man to do something that man was not "equipped" to do
    1. so, God "equipped" man with a passion and drive to work
    2. . . .please understand this about men: each and every man has a God-ordained passion to:
      - a. work
      - b. achieve
      - c. succeed
    3. so, women, relative to the man to whom you are married:
      - a. you need to understand his passion, his drive, his compulsion, to work and to achieve
      - b. if you do not understand this about the nature of your husband, you will never understand him
        1. his work is a passion to him
        2. his hobbies are a passion to him
        3. his things are a passion to him

## II. The INCOMPLETENESS OF MAN

### A. The INADEQUACY OF CREATION

1. Please notice that God made all of creation "**for**" man
  - a. **Genesis 1:29** – "Then God said, "**I give you** every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. **They will be yours for food.**"
  - b. **Genesis 2:8-9a** – "Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. **And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.**"

### 2. GOD MADE ALL OF CREATION FOR MAN!

- a. the beauty of the skies

- b. the smell and beauty of the flowers
- c. the taste of food
- d. the companionship of the animal kingdom
- 3. God created the “perfect environment” for man in His creation
- 4. however, as beautiful as the creation was, it did not fulfill the deepest need of the man

#### B. The INADEQUACY OF THE CREATURES

**Genesis 2:19-20a** - “Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.”

- 1. after making all of creation, God made man creatures
  - a. and all of those creatures God had them “parade” by man so that he could name them
  - b. all kinds of animals
- 2. but, despite the fact that dogs and cats paraded by, there was still something missing in man’s life

#### C. The INCOMPLETENESS OF MAN (PLEASE NOTICE!)

- 1. man was incomplete **despite being in a perfect environment**
  - a. God had just created an entire planet for man
    - 1. beauty was all around him
    - 2. the sights and sounds of creation were everywhere
    - 3. there was food; there was beauty
  - b. Man had all of the “things” that he could ever want
- 2. man was incomplete **despite being in a perfect relationship with God**
  - a. man was sinless; he had not yet fallen into sin yet
  - b. man was in a perfect relationship with God
- 3. man was incomplete **despite having the perfect job**
  - a. man had the job that God gave him!
  - b. man was responsible for taking care of the world!
  - c. and yet, man was still incomplete

#### D. The INTIMATION OF GOD

- 1. however, despite all that God had done for man
  - a. the perfect environment
  - b. the perfect relationship with Him
  - c. the perfect job
- 2. **IT WAS NOT ENOUGH!**
- 3. notice again what God said about the man in his “perfect situation”
 

**Genesis 2:20b** – “But for Adam (man) **no suitable helper was found.**”

  - a. all of this “perfection” was not enough
    - 1. there was still something “missing”
    - 2. what could be missing?
  - b. “a suitable helper” was missing

1. **MAN NEEDED SOMEONE TO SHARE HIS LIFE WITH**
  - a. the stars couldn't share his life
  - b. the trees couldn't share his life
  - c. food couldn't share his life
  - d. even dogs couldn't meet his needs
2. **MAN NEEDED A COMPANION!**

### III. The INSPIRATION OF WOMAN

#### A. The CREATION OF WOMAN

1. so, to meet man's needs for a companion, God put man into a deep sleep – the first anesthesia

**Genesis 2:21-22** – “So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, **he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.**”

- a. out of the man's side, God took a rib and “fashioned the woman”
  - b. what a perfect picture of what God intended for the mate of the man
    1. **WOMAN WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE “SIDE” OF MAN**
    2. **THIS IS CLEARLY TEACHING THE EQUALITY AND RELATIONSHIP OF MAN AND WOMAN!**
      - a. this is teaching that men and women are **EQUAL!**
        1. **IN FACT, THEY ARE TO BE “SIDE BY SIDE”**
        2. **Matthew Henry** – “You will notice that the woman was made of a rib out of the **side** of Adam; **not** made of his **head** to rule over him; **nor** out of his **feet** to be trampled upon by him, but out of his **side** to be equal with him, **under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.**”
      - b. **DO NOT EVER LET SOMEONE TELL YOU THAT MEN ARE BETTER THAN WOMEN**
        1. men and women are, for sure, different
        2. but, they are, for sure, equal
2. to make the “perfect match,” God made woman “from man”
  - a. you could not get a better match than this
  - b. woman in the Hebrew means “from man”
  - c. this was the perfect companion, the perfect “helper” that man needed

#### B. The CELEBRATION OF A WOMAN

**Genesis 2:22-23** – “Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, “**This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;** she shall be called ‘woman, for she was taken out of man.’”

1. after God had created the woman, God brought her to the man – “almost like a present”
2. **NOTICE WHAT THE MAN SAID:**
  - a. What would you “think” that the man would have said when he first saw the woman?
    1. **ESPECIALLY** after watching all of those animals parade before him?
    2. compared to:
      - a. an elephant
      - b. a giraffe
      - c. a hippo
  - b. “this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh”
    1. what the man actually said was:
      - a. “whoopie!”
      - b. “unbelievable!”
      - c. “wow!”
      - d. “can you believe it?”
    2. what the man probably meant was: “I have never seen anything like that before!”
    3. I finally have a helper!

#### IV. The IMPORTANCE OF WOMAN

##### A. The FULFILLMENT OF WOMAN BY GOD

1. **WOMEN, PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW GOD MADE YOU – HE MADE YOU TO BE YOUR HUSBAND’S HELPMEEET**
  - a. what a helpmeet is **not**:
    1. not a slave, not a “domestic”
    2. not his “girl Friday”
    3. please realize that this word helper is used some 21 times in the Old Testament
      - a. 15 of these times, it is used of God helping man
      - b. so, is God “less than” or “under” the man that He is helping?
      - c. **Psalm 46:1** – “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present **help** (helpmeet) in times of trouble.”
  - b. what a helpmeet **is**:
    1. a companion
    2. a friend
    3. a supporter
    4. **John Calvin** – “Now, at last, I have obtained a suitable companion, who is part of the substance of my flesh, and in whom I behold as it were, “**another self.**”
2. the **best way** to understand the word helper or helpmeet is the concept of “completer”

- a. Hebrew:
  1. one who assists another to reach complete fulfillment
  2. coming to the rescue of another
  3. perfectly fashioned to help rebuild
  4. to cause to flourish
  5. **Kent Hughes – “The woman makes it possible for a man to do what he could never do alone.”**
- b. my pre-marital counseling
  1. I will often ask the wife-to-be what **she** wants to be “to her new husband”; she will often answer:
    - a. a friend
    - b. a supporter
    - c. his lover
    - d. his helper
  2. **I ASK EVERY WOMAN IN PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING THIS QUESTION, AND THEY GIVE ME THE SAME ANSWER**
    - a. they want to be their future husband’s greatest supporter, friend and helper – i.e. helpmeet
    - b. in effect, they want to be their husband’s helper!
  3. **WOMEN, IT IS IN YOUR DNA TO BE A HELPMEEET TO YOUR HUSBAND!**
    - a. it is how God has made you
    - b. **AND IT IS WHAT WE HUSBANDS NEED**
      1. let me say it, we **need** the help and support of our wives
      2. me, Jane in college

## **B. The FULFILLMENT OF WOMEN FOR MAN**

1. to further “prove my point,” let me share how God has “equipped” women to be the helpmeet of their husbands
  - a. men:
    1. men are work driven
    2. men are focused
    3. men are compulsive and often make compulsive decisions
  - b. women:
    1. are **relational**
      - a. women are much more relational than men
      - b. why are women more relational? **BECAUSE GOD HAS GIFTED WOMEN TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO MEN ABOUT ANYTHING**
      - c. most men do not have a lot of friends
        1. why, because men have one “best friend” – their wives
        2. the one we talk about everything with

d. **Dr. John Gray – Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus**

Venusians have different values. **They value love, communication, beauty, and relationships.** They spend a lot of time supporting helping, and nurturing one another. Their sense of self is defined through their feelings and the **quality of their relationships.** They experience fulfillment through **sharing and relating.**

**A woman’s sense of self is defined through her feelings and the quality of her relationships.**

Everything on Venus reflects these values. Rather than building highways and tall buildings, the Venusians are more concerned with living together in harmony, community, and loving cooperation.

**Relationships are more important than work and technology.** In most ways their world is the opposite of Mars.

**Communication is of primary importance.** To share their personal feelings is much more important than achieving goals and success. **Talking and relating to one another is a source of tremendous fulfillment.**

2. are **nurturers**

- a. not only has God equipped women to nurture their child women also desire to nurture their husbands
- b. and trust me, HUSBANDS NEED TO BE NURTURED

1. after a tough day at work, we need to know that someone cares
2. after making a huge, costly mistake that cost the business a lot of money, we need to know that someone “out there” loves us unconditionally.

- c. most men are not comfortable going to another man “and asking for a hug.”

3. are **intuitional**

- a. women have a “sixth sense” described as “women’s intuition”
  1. an ability to “feel something”
  2. an ability to know that despite all of the research and good feelings that their husbands have about a possible decision, they are about to make, the wife “feels” that the husbands decision could be a disaster

- b. it is my personal belief that God has equipped our wives with this “intuition” BECAUSE MEN CAN BE SO DRIVEN THAT WE DON’T “SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES!”
    1. how many times, I have asked my wife what appeared to be a “no-brainer” decision, only to have her warn me against going in that direction.
    2. my wife has been a huge part in each decision I have made to go to a particular church. (“I guess we go.”)
2. how wives can be a helpmeet to their husbands:
- a. see your husbands as “trinitarian”
 

**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.”
  - b. wives are called to “help” their husbands in these three ways:
    1. **physically**
      - a. your husband needs **exercise**
        1. he needs to get outside and sweat
          - a. he needs to be healthy
          - b. he needs to eat good food
          - c. he needs a hobby
        2. you need to encourage your husband to “take care of his body”
      - b. your husband needs **adequate sleep**
        1. he can’t function if he does not get adequate Sleep
        2. deciding to talk at 11:00 p.m. about deep personal issues is a bad idea
      - c. your husband needs a **physical relationship** with you
        1. **Willard Harley** in his book, His Needs, Her Needs, lists the top 5 needs of a man. Guess what is first on the list: sexual fulfillment.
        2. do you realize that the only time that a husband and wife are not to be physical with one another is for a season of prayer?
        3. if you want to break your husband’s heart, then refrain in your physical relationship with him.
    2. **emotionally**
      - a. **YOUR HUSBAND NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**
        1. he needs your support in **his job**
          - a. do you resent your husband’s job?
          - b. do you communicate your dislike for his job?

- c. **when a wife does not support her husband's work, her husband takes it as a total lack of support and respect of him as a man (ask him and see if this is true)**

**2. he needs your support verbally**

- a. of all the people in the world that he should be able to talk to about his emotional needs, **IT SHOULD BE YOU!**
- b. one of the reasons that your husband may not be talking to you is that he knows that you do not respect what he says
  - 1. you roll your eyes
  - 2. you are too busy
  - 3. trust me – if a husband “senses” that his wife is not truly listening to him, **HE WILL QUIT TALKING TO YOU!**
- b. women, if your husband does not feel and sense your emotional support, **YOU ARE BEING DISOBEDIENT TO THE VERY PURPOSE YOU HAVE IN THE MARRIAGE**

**3. spiritually**

- a. wives, your husband needs your spiritual support
  - 1. this means a continual spiritual conversation that goes on between a spiritual husband and wife
    - a. there is always something to talk about if you are both believers
    - b. “What does that text mean? What is God doing in your life? What lessons is God teaching you? How have you seen God answer prayer?”
  - 2. wives, this certainly means that you pray for and with your husband
    - a. if your husband is not a Christian, pray that he gets saved
    - b. if your husband is a Christian, pray for his spiritual life, his spiritual growth and his spiritual leadership
- b. wives, have you considered that God called you two together **SO THAT YOU COULD HELP YOUR HUSBAND GROW IN THE FAITH?**

## Conclusion

1. Let me say a word to the **husbands**:
    - a. if your wife is not “being your helpmeet,” let me ask why that may be the case
      1. **one**, you may not give her the opportunity to help you
        - a. you don’t talk to her
        - b. you don’t share your life with her
        - c. maybe you don’t want her to know what your are thinking
      2. **two**, you may have sensed that your wife didn’t care; you got angry and quit talking to her
        - a. men, if that is the case, please forgive your wife and let her back into your life again
        - b. if you do not allow your wife to be involved in everything in your life; if you do not allow your wife to be your helpmeet, **she will wonder why you married her in the first place!**
    - b. husbands, God has created your wives to be your helpmeet:
      1. that was why God created her
      2. not allowing your wife to be your helpmeet, is like you men having no job and no purpose in this life – IT MAKES THEM VERY EMPTY
      3. listen to this letter that a wife sent to **Pastor John MacArthur**

“There’s nothing on TV tonight. **I asked my husband if he minds if I turn off the tube.** He grunts. As I walked to the set, my mind is racing. **Maybe just maybe tonight we’ll talk.** I mean have a conversation that consists of more than my usual question with the mumbled one-word answer, or more accurately, no answer at all.

She goes on. “**Silence**, I live in a world with continuous noise, but between him and me, **silence. Please, O God, let him open up.** I initiate once again for the thousandth time, my heart pounds, oh, how can I word it this time? **What can I say that will open the door to just talk? I don’t have to have a deep meaningful confersation, just something.**”

“As I open my mouth,” she goes on, “he gets up and goes to the bedroom. The door closes behind him, the light showing under the door gives way to darkness and so does my hope.

**“I sit alone on the couch. My heart begins to ache. I’m tired of being alone. Hey, I’m married. I have been for years. Why do I sit alone?”**
2. Let me say a few words to the **wives**:
  - a. if your husband is not treating you as a helpmeet, what could it be?
    1. when young couples get married, they do not seem to have a problem with communication

- a. however, after a while, the young husband gets a job that takes a great deal of his time and energy – after he comes home from work, he is just too tired to talk
- b. and then, the wife gets pregnant and begins to focus her attention on being a mother
  - 1. before you know it, there is a baby, then two and then three
  - 2. and the wife has more than she can take care of
- c. the husband may attempt to talk and communicate, but the responsibilities of the family overwhelm her
- d. and he quits trying
- 2. and . . . young couples become older couples
  - a. the man has spent his life building a business
  - b. and the wife has given her life to raising a family
  - c. is it any wonder that after 25 years of marriage many couples do not know one another
    - 1. after many years, the kids have all gone to college
    - 2. and the couple no longer knows one another
    - 3. is it any wonder why they got a divorce?
- b. whatever the cause of your struggles, it is time to rebuild your marriage
  - 1. who will be the **first** to say that they are **sorry**?
  - 2. who will be the **first** to say that they **want a marriage**?
  - 3. who will be the **first** to say that they want **God's best for your marriage**?