



# 422B1

BIBLE-BASED



CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS

Keeping Your Vows While Keeping Your Vows

PART 1: BIBLE · BY INGO SORKE, PHD



**The Wedding Chair - Have a seat!** After I performed a wedding for the Kenyan Kisii tribe the men counseled the groom and the women the bride in all matters matrimony as they each sat on a small wooden chair. With his chair the groom could now join the village council! So, pull up a chair for a talk!

## CREATION

How a wonderful beginning can keep us from a woeful end

ORIGIN: PLACE · PEOPLE

- **Genesis Principle - Separation → Unification:** 1:1 (heaven | earth) · 1:4 (light | darkness) · 1:5 (evening | morning) · 1:6 (water | firmament | water) · 1:10 (earth/land | H<sub>2</sub>O) · 1:14 (day | night = 1:18 light | darkness) · 1:21, 24, 25 ("according to its kind" 6x) · 1:27 (male | female) · 2:2 (days 1-6 | 7th day) · 2:10-14 (1 river → 4 rivers) · 2:16-17 (every tree | tree of knowledge 🍌🍌) · 2:21-23 (Adam-rib → Eve = woman "out of man") · 2:24 (father & mother | "joined to his wife ... one flesh")

**Genesis 2:22-25** "and **HE** brought her to the man. ... Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." **Elohim [God] 32 in Genesis 1! He is and wants to be involved in your**

- **Pattern: People** - תולדות generations (Gen 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1, 32; 11:10, 27; 25:12, 13, 19; 36:1, 9; 37:2)
- **Passage: God's people have crossed over!** "Eber" עֵבֶר *ēber* (Gen 10:21-25). NET: Gen 11 - Shem → Eber → **Abraham the "Hebrew"** (עִבְרִי, *ivri*). BDB: 5674 עָבַר *ābar* vb. **pass over, through, by, pass on** · 5676 עֵבֶר *ēber* nm **region across or beyond** · 5680 עִבְרִי *ivri* adj Hebrew: ... to distinguish Isr. from foreigners (= **one from beyond, from the other side**, i.e. prob. from beyond the Euphrates or from beyond the Jordan. *Have you crossed over?*)

## Curse

"As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour" (DA 210).

Now What?!



### Separation

**Gen 3:6 "She also gave to her husband [now] with her, and he ate."** עִמָּה *immaḥ*

👉 "Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it. A similar result will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God's plan. In their efforts to reach positions for which He has not fitted them, many are leaving vacant the place where they might be a blessing. In their desire for a higher sphere, many have sacrificed true womanly dignity and nobility of character, and have left undone the very work that Heaven appointed them" (PP 59).



### Self-Righteousness

**Gen 3:7 "and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."**

👉 "The fig-leaves represent the arguments used to cover disobedience. When the Lord calls the attention of men and women to the truth, the making of fig-leaves into aprons will be begun, to hide the nakedness of the soul. But the nakedness of the sinner is not covered. All the arguments pieced together by all who have interested themselves in this flimsy work will come to naught" (RH, Nov 15, 1898).



### The Blame Game

**LORD God to Adam: "Where are you?!" (Gen 3:9)**



**Adam:** Gen 3:12 "The woman whom **You gave to be with me**"

*What are your excuses?*



**Eve:** Gen 3:13 "The serpent" 🐍

*Who/What do you blame?*

## COMMANDMENT

**"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt!"**

↘ relationship · rescue ↗

RELATIONSHIPS. RULE.

"and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor 10:5)

**50% Family: #2:** Fathers → Children (Ex 20:5) · **#4:** "whole family" (Ex 20:10) · **#5:** "father & mother" (Ex 20:12) · **#7:** "You shall not commit adultery" · **#10:** "your neighbor's wife" (Ex 20:17) ... because family matters 100%!

## COURTSHIP



A Pair in Paradise



RESTORATION

When I was a new believer an elder told me: "Read all of the 66 books of the Bible - except the Song of Solomon!" (*I read it that afternoon!*) Have you read the Song of Solomon together as a couple?

- 2 Sam 11:1-2 "It happened in the spring of the year ... Then it happened one evening" 🧑
- 2 Sam 11:2 "And from the roof he saw a woman bathing" - *and should have gone back inside!*
- 2 Sam 11:2 "and the woman was very beautiful to behold." STOP! STOP NOW! 🛑
- 2 Sam 11:3 "So David sent and inquired about the woman." *You can still turn around!* ⏮
- 2 Sam 11:3 "Someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"
- 2 Sam 11:4 "Then David sent messengers" !!
- 2 Sam 11:4 "and" 💣 ⚡ 🌟 → "Send me Uriah the Hittite" → murder!

**Either you stop . . .  
... or God stops you!**

2 Sam 12:13-14 David: "**I have sinned against the LORD.**" Nathan: "**The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.** 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, **the child also who is born to you shall surely die.**" = *innocent dies for sins of another!*

## CASE VS CONCEPT



## THE HEART OF THE MATTER: A MATTER OF THE HEART

Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'"

JESUS: LOOK 👁 → LUST IN ❤️ → 🙅🏻 ↔ HELL!

Job 31:1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?" 👁

בין *bin* Kohlenberger/Mounce: "[Hitpolel = reflexive] to look closely, consider with full attention, ponder." 🤔

Matthew 19:3-10 Pharisees → testing Jesus: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?"

↳ **Creation Appeal:** 4 Jesus: "Have you not read that He who made *them at the beginning* 'made them male & female,' 5 **Genesis 2:24** → **Therefore what GOD has joined together, let not man separate.**"

7 Pharisees: Moses - 📖 divorce → 8 Jesus: "**hardness of** ❤️ - **"but from the beginning it was not so"**

## CHRIST. LIKE.

*Just like Jesus*

## RESTORATION

Ephesians 5:22-33: **Marriage is the mirror of God's love to the world!**

22, 24 🧑 submits to 🧑 → 23 husband = head **as Christ** = head of church (**Savior of the body**)

25 🧑 ❤️ 🧑 "just **as Christ** also loved the church **and gave Himself for her!**"

Submission:  
only to a Christ-like man!

26 **Purpose:** sanctification · cleansing · washing of water by the word

27 **Reason:** "present her to Himself a glorious church, no spot/wrinkle, but holy, no blemish (*like Jesus!*)

29 no hate; nourishes + cherishes it, "**just as the Lord does the church**"

Student after a presentation of Eph 5:  
*Where can I find such a man?!*

31 Creation Appeal → Christ & Church → 🧑 ❤️ 🧑 · 🧑 🏆 🧑

Revelation 2:4 ⚡ "you have left your first love"



**If you left, you can return to your first love!**

👉 "He referred them to the blessed days of Eden, when God pronounced all things **"very good."** Then marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, **twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity.** Then, as the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall "leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one" (Gen 2:24), **He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time. That which the Eternal Father Himself had pronounced good was the law of highest blessing and development for man**" (MB 63). ... "Like every other one of God's good gifts entrusted to the keeping of humanity, marriage has been perverted by sin; but **it is the purpose of the gospel to restore its purity and beauty.** In both the Old and the New Testament the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people, the redeemed ones whom He has purchased at the cost of Calvary." **"The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be—an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven"** (MB 65). "Now, as in Christ's day, the condition of society presents a sad comment upon heaven's ideal of this sacred relation. **Yet even for those who have found bitterness and disappointment where they had hoped for companionship and joy, the gospel of Christ offers a solace.** The patience and gentleness which His Spirit can impart will sweeten the bitter lot. The heart in which Christ dwells will be so filled, so satisfied, with His love that it will not be consumed with longing to attract sympathy and attention to itself. And through the surrender of the soul to God, His wisdom can accomplish what human wisdom fails to do. **Through the revelation of His grace, hearts that were once indifferent or estranged may be united in bonds that are firmer and more enduring than those of earth—the golden bonds of a love that will bear the test of trial**" (MB 65).