

## Talk Two

# **Marriage is a Unique Union of Man and Woman. Marriage is Made in Heaven**

Let us pray:

***Almighty and Eternal God, Creator and Maker of all mankind; by Your divine wisdom You Chose and blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with His Church. Look with love and kindness upon all married persons. Renew their marriage covenant by increasing within them Your love and strengthen their bond of peace so that they may always rejoice in the gift of Your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen***

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Our talk this morning is an important talk.

I will be using two scriptures. I want to use Genesis 1:27-28,31, which is a portion of the first account of the creation story and the making of man and woman. It reads:

***27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion [over it]... 31 And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Gen 1:27 ASV)***

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These few verses help communicate essential truths about the fundamental *equality and dignity of man and woman as persons*.

The second passage from scripture is from the second creation account (Genesis 2:18-24) which emphasizes that *both genders are necessary for God's plan to unfold and work*.

***The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him.*** <sup>19</sup> *So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.* <sup>20</sup> *The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.* <sup>21</sup> ***So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.*** <sup>22</sup> *The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man,* <sup>23</sup> *the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken."* <sup>24</sup> *That is why a man leaves his*

***father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.***  
**(Gen 2:18 NAB)**

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Man, created and sustained by God, is no longer alone.

Woman is created from the rib or the side of Adam. This story in no means declares that women are somehow inferior or subordinate human beings. Rather, as in the first creation account, this passage from the second account of creation wants to explain *the fundamental equality of each person in the eyes of God*.

*But, please know, equal partnership does not mean sameness.*

Rather to explain this equality of persons it is best to talk of the *complementarity of man and woman* that makes each of them perfectly suited to be the answer to the other's deepest needs, and that is to make each other *complete or whole*.

### **Christological lens**

As Christians we look at both creation accounts through Christological lens. We see all of this through the eyes of Christ. He helps us to gain a deeper, a fuller insight into the mystery of God, of His love and how His love is found so beautifully in marital love. We find being foreshadowed in Genesis the mystical intimate union that will characterize the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church.

### **Equality and dignity**

The equality and dignity of humanity is rooted to the *male-female complementarity based on gender difference*. This *gender difference* is willed by God. The *complementarity* of man and woman becomes a gift of each other making a communion of persons.

What do I mean by a “communion of persons?” I will speak more about this next week, but this term refers to when two people freely and fully give themselves to each other, accepting one another in love.

### **True love is mutual self-gift.**

Why “gender difference?” This is a deep question, but the beauty of the human person is that he is a union of body and soul as a single being. Man and woman are *two different ways* of being a human person; of being open to God and to one another and to life; they are two distinct yet harmonizing ways of responding to the vocation to love.

While man and woman are different, their differences serve to relate them to each other.

The cry of Adam upon seeing Eve that she is “at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (Gen 2:23) is confirmation that he realized in receiving Eve he could see the truth and goodness of God’s design. This design and mystery is what it means to be human, to celebrate sexual differences that exist between men and women.

These differences are the joy of man and woman and willed and blessed by God.

Last week, using Ephesians 1:3 we saw how all blessings that come to us come from God. They come from Heaven to us. From this life of countless blessings we are called as disciples of Jesus Christ to make a life on this earth that witnesses to and celebrates our covenant life with God.

Our heavenly Father daily blesses us through our relationship with Christ “with every blessing in the heavenly world...” We learn from Ephesians that you marriage and mine were made in Heaven!

What an astonishing reality. From Heaven God’s love for our marriage comes forth distributing to us blessing after blessing, always blessing for the good of our vows, for the good of our spouse, to open our love to the gift of life, that our love makes life, blessings that deepen and add depth to our marriage and strengthen our commitment and stability.

What an amazing reality. You marriage and mine were made in Heaven. This means that our marriage is modeled on Trinitarian love. The love between the Father and the Son; that love is the Holy Spirit.

Marriage is graced by Christ with a sacramental character enabling it to participate in divine love. Like all sacraments, Holy Matrimony is designed by God to draw believers more deeply and fully into the Trinitarian life of God.

What an amazing reality.

### **Remember your own wedding day**

Can you remember the day, maybe even the moment, when you exchanged your wedding vows?

Just think about what happened at that moment in your life. At that moment our Lord Jesus touched your soul and blessed you with a deep and abiding grace. That grace becomes the dynamic power that enables you to take this woman as “your wife” or this man as “your husband.”

That moment in time transformed you into spouse and elevated your ordinary living into a relationship that is extraordinary and divine.

Through your love (given by God) for each other, you influence your family, your friends, the Church, and society; your love is covenant love which is a love that reveals the truth about God, the truth about yourself, and the truth about your marriage.

That moment in time was ordained by God for you and your spouse. What an amazing reality.

Marriage in Christ witnesses to the beauty of God’s unconditional love and the divine truth that God is love and when we respond to His call to love, God transforms our humanity into the likeness of His being.