

Genesis 2:24-25 and 3:1-6

As we discovered last week, Eve was a very special person.

For one thing, unlike the rest of creation, she had been brought into existence after Adam had been created.

And while sea life and animals, and even man himself had been formed from the basic elements of our planet, Eve was created from living matter.

Yes, she was made from Adam's rib, requiring an operation, and even the involvement of pain, had not God rendered him unconscious.

And finally, we were made aware of that special "**one flesh**" relationship that existed between Adam and Eve.

Yes, Eve was very a special creation, not only because she was the perfect **"help meet"** for her husband, but because she was a type of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Yes, Eve was like the Bride of Christ in many ways.

She was pre-dated by her husband, who is a type of the Eternal One.

And like the church, her husband was wounded to bring her into existence.

Also, Eve was part of Adam's body, as is the Church of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:30 **"--- we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."**

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However, Adam and Eve are not the only couple to foreshadow this blessed relationship.

For instance, there is Isaac and Rebekah, and several other couples that are mentioned in scripture.

However, rather than focussing on these individuals at this particular time, I would like to continue our study of the marriage relationship itself that we began in last week's lesson.

As you will remember, the Jewish custom of espousal, current in Jesus' day, effectively described the Church's relationship to Christ during the age of grace.

And just as the espoused bride waited for her bridegroom's arrival, so we should be expectantly waiting for Christ's second coming.

For 33 years, Jesus walked the dusty roads
of Israel, but this time, His feet will
not even touch the ground.

No, He will come in the clouds, and His
espoused bride will meet Him in the
air.

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But there is more!

Not only does the espoused Jewish bride
describe our relationship to Christ in
this age of grace, but the institution
of marriage itself is very instructive
when it comes to describing this
heavenly relationship, and vice versa.

Let me explain.

As we noted in last week's lesson, God
(through Adam) placed the marriage
relationship on a firm foundation. ---

" Therefore shall a man leave his

father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Yes, God intended marriage to be permanent, not only because it is the basis on which our society is built, but because Christian marriage foreshadows the eternal relationship between Christ and His Church.

And not only does the permanence of this earthly institution teach us a valuable lesson concerning eternal security, but this heavenly relationship with Christ is a stabilizing force in our own marriages.

So both the type and the antitype are very important, and both are completely intertwined.

That's why Satan has made such an effort to tear down the stability of marriage, and the stability of our salvation.

Let's look at Ephesians 5, where Paul uses the type and the anti-type to explain and strengthen each other.

Ephesians 5:21-33 **"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.**

22: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24: Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave

himself for it;

26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28: So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29: For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two

shall be one flesh.

32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33: Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

It should be evident from this passage that it is not only Adam and Eve that are a type of Christ and the church, but, actually, every Christian man and woman inside the bonds of marriage should typify this heavenly relationship by their conduct.

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Because of our inseparable union with Him and in Him, we are assured of our salvation, our righteousness, our inheritance, and our home in heaven.

It is a relationship that can never be broken.

Because we are God's dear children, we can expect to be disciplined if we disobey; but because we are the Bride of Christ, we will never be lost.

No, there will never be a single member of Christ's body in hell.

And as our relationship to Christ is the foundation of our peace, so our earthly marriages should be an island of peace, and the umbrella under which the children can safely dwell.

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V 23-24 **"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**

24: Therefore shall a man leave his

**father and his mother, and shall cleave
unto his wife: and they shall be one
flesh."**

I'm sure everyone will agree that V 24
places marriage on a stable foundation,
but was this utterance merely Adam's
opinion on the subject?

Certainly V 23 tells us that it was Adam
that spoke these words.

However, I still don't believe he was the
author of these words.

As a matter of fact, I believe they were
actually God's first revelation to man,
and they emphasized the importance that
He placed on the stability of marriage.

No, Adam could not have been the author of
these words, because they involved a
subject he knew nothing about.

After all, Adam had been created as an adult, never having a father or a mother, and he had never been a father himself.

No, he knew absolutely *nothing* about the concept of parenting, and yet he said, **"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother."**

With no previous experience to base his statement on, Adam effectively laid down the basic principle that the marriage relationship should take precedence over the parental relationship.

And even though Adam was fully aware of the physical aspects of the statement **"and they shall be one flesh,"** there is a much deeper *meaning* to his words than he could have ever imagined.

Paul brings this out in Ephesians Chapter 5.

V 31-32 **"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."** (Essentially he was quoting Adam's words, and then he makes this additional statement.) **"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."**

So, even though Adam was completely unaware of the fact that he and his wife were a type of Christ and His Church, and that their marriage was a picture of the church's unending union with Christ, he effectively nailed down the permanency of marriage on the very day that God brought Eve to him.

Yes, Adam was God's very first prophet.

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Now, I realize that some marriages end in divorce, and there is nothing that the unfortunate partner can do about it.

I have the greatest sympathy for those who have gone through that devastating experience, and I'm not here to judge them.

However, the principle still remains--God intended marriage to be permanent.

And Jesus quoted Adam's very words (although He attributed them to God) to make this point.

We see that in Matthew 19:3-6 **"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**

4: And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made

them at the beginning made them male
and female,

5: And said, For this cause shall a man
leave father and mother, and shall
cleave to his wife: and they twain
shall be one flesh?

6: Wherefore they are no more twain,
but one flesh. What therefore God hath
joined together, let not man put
asunder."

So there you have it. Marriage was
instituted by God, and He immediately
protected it by His inspired word--
"Therefore shall a man leave his father
and his mother, and shall cleave unto
his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

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Genesis 2:25 **"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."**

Obviously, they didn't need clothing to protect themselves from the elements.

At that particular time, the world probably enjoyed a universally temperate climate.

But what about the moral and psychological implications?

Apparently they weren't a problem either.

And we will be discussing this subject a little more thoroughly when we get further on in Genesis Chapter 3, but we must begin at the beginning.

And here we are at the beginning of this chapter and V 1: **"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he**

said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

So far we have discovered some unusual things in Genesis:

- The climate and watering system were much different than they are today.
- Man and animals were vegetarians.
- And now, to top it all off, we are about to meet a talking animal--or at least an animal that talked.

I'm sure we will all agree that Satan must have been indwelling the serpent, and that it was he who was controlling the conversation, although the scriptures don't actually say that, or even mention his name in that connection.

However, what is obvious from the surrounding context is the fact that

this wasn't the first time that the serpent had spoken to Eve.

Certainly he was of a higher order, for V 1 clearly tells us he **"--- was more subtle than any beast of the field."**

But could he actually talk?

Of course, I wasn't there, even though I might look that old, but the point is, Eve was, and her reactions are quite revealing, or should I say, her lack of any reaction whatsoever was quite revealing.

Apparently the snake just walked right up to her and said, **"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"** And Eve answered his question without batting an eyelash: **"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:**

3: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden"---and so on.

If this was the *first* time she had experienced such a thing, I think she would have run the other way shouting, *Adam, there's an animal over here that can talk!*

But she didn't, did she?

No, she answered his question calmly, like it was an everyday event, because it was an every day event.

And if the serpent could actually talk, then he would have been the ideal tool for Satan's purposes.

Yes, He could get his message across, and Eve would be none the wiser.

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However, there is another scenario.

Perhaps the serpent really wasn't a talking animal.

Perhaps Satan had been talking to Eve through the serpent for a month or so in order to precondition her, and by now she really believed serpents could talk.

Certainly Satan would be smart enough to make such a preparation.

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But actually, it doesn't really matter whether the serpent could talk or not.

What does matter is the content of their conversation, because it has affected us all.

So let's listen in.

If we stand behind these bushes, no one will ever notice us.

Genesis 3:1 "--- **And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"**

Here is the very first indication that it really was Satan who was controlling the conversation.

Yes, the very first words out of the serpent's mouth questioned the reliability of God's Word---"**hath God said**"?

Did God actually say that?

Maybe Adam got it all wrong.

Maybe there was something lost in the translation.

And even today, it really doesn't matter who is actually speaking. Whenever the reliability of God's Word is questioned, you can be pretty sure who is controlling the conversation.

Yes, that's step 1 in Satan's program---
question the Word of God.

And it's *still* step 1 in his program, and it
still works very well:

Did God actually mean it when He said ---

**"He that believeth on the Son hath
everlasting life: and he that believeth
not the Son shall not see life; but the
wrath of God abideth on him"?**

*Surely a loving God would never say there is
only one way to heaven. That's just
too narrow.*

*And besides that, there are so many
contradictions in the Bible.*

*No, you shouldn't take everything literally.
For instance, look at the book of Genesis.
You know that part about a flood covering
the whole earth, and a boat that could*

*hold enough animals to repopulate the
entire world.*

Yes, that's step 1: Question the Word of
God.

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But you have to give Eve credit for one
thing.

She did answer the serpent's question by
quoting the Word of God.

V 2-3 **"And the woman said unto the serpent,
We may eat of the fruit of the trees of
the garden:**

**3: But of the fruit of the tree which
is in the midst of the garden, God hath
said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither
shall ye touch it, lest ye die."**

But she didn't quote it very well, did she?
Somewhere along the line, someone added to
God's statement.

Maybe it was Adam.

After all, he was the only one who had
actually *heard* God's commandment.

Or was it Eve?

We don't really know, but the fact remains,
someone had been careless--or perhaps
ever worse--in their handling of the
Word of God.

Here's what God actually said: **"But of the
tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shalt not eat of it."** And that's
all He said, other than spelling out
the consequences.

However, Eve *added* the words **"neither shall
ye touch it."**

Do you detect a certain tone of discontent
in those words?

They were Eve's words, or possibly Adam's,
and they revealed a rather negative
attitude toward God's commandment.

Isn't that the way it is with false cults?

They add and take away from the Word of God
in order to promote their own opinions
and agendas.

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So that was step 1: Question the Word of
God.

And having found a little chink in Eve's
armour, Satan felt confident enough to
take step 2.

V 4 **"And the serpent said unto the woman,
Ye shall not surely die."**

Having successfully *questioned* God's words,
it wasn't long before he blatantly
denied it: **"Ye shall not surely die."**

When Eve heard that statement, she should
have ran for the hills!

But she stayed, and she listened.

And as she listened, she began to question
the motives of her best friend, and
that left her wide open for step 3, the
substitution of a lie for the truth.

V 4-5 **"And the serpent said unto the woman,
Ye shall not surely die:**

**5: For God doth know that in the day ye
eat thereof, then your eyes shall be
opened, and ye shall be as gods,
knowing good and evil."**

God had said, **"in the day that thou eatest
thereof thou shalt surely die,"** but
Satan said, **"in the day ye eat thereof,
then your eyes shall be opened."**

Yes, he actually quoted God's words, and
then *added* some of his own.

And you know what?

That's exactly what Eve had done!

Yes, Satan used enough truth to make his lie convincing, and then he added, "**then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods--.**"

But they weren't going to be "**as gods.**"

Oh, their eyes would be opened all right, but only to show them that "**they were naked.**"

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So let's re-read V 5---"**For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**"

Wouldn't you think this would be a hard sell even for Satan?

After all, Eve was living in a garden paradise.

She had an incorruptible body with no possibility of disease or death to worry about.

She had a good husband.

And when the time came for her to have children, she wouldn't experience birth pains.

Yes, she had it made.

But then Satan said, *Hey, you haven't seen anything yet. There's a bright new world out there, and you're missing out!*

And you know what? He still uses that same tactic today.

And although I might sound a little biased, I think he uses it most effectively on Christian young people, or at least on young people from Christian homes.

You see, young people who have been raised
by Christian parents are a lot like
Eve.

Oh, I realize Christian homes are not always
a paradise, but compared to a lot of
worldly homes, most of them are.

But Satan begins spreading discontent:

*You're missing out. Get a life, man.
There are a lot of cool things going
on out there.*

And there are a lot of exciting things for
young people to experience in the
world.

Viewed from a distance, they look pretty
good.

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And Satan has something better for adults,
too.

A few years ago, it was THE BRAVE NEW WORLD,
and then it was the NEW
CONSCIOUSNESS, and THE NEW AGE
MOVEMENT.

But, actually, none of these things are new.
They're the same old lie that Satan told Eve
back in the Garden.

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So Eve was in a dilemma.

Who was she going to believe?

Was God really her friend, or was the
serpent her friend?

It was kind of like a Pandora's Box.

There might be wonderful things inside, but
you had to open it to find out.

And she just couldn't take a little nibble
and spit it out if she started to
feel funny.

No, she couldn't *test* the forbidden fruit.

But, actually, it wasn't the fruit that
needed testing.

It was her heart that was on trial, and it
should have passed the test with
flying colours.

God had given her everything.

Why would she doubt such a Friend, even for
a moment?

Proverbs 4:23 says, **"Keep thy heart with all
diligence; for out of it are the
issues of life."**

But Eve had already listened to Satan's lie,
and already her heart was
contaminated by suspicion and pride.

And because of this, she had really narrowed
down her options.

If you start questioning the Word of God, if
you begin to doubt His motives, you

only have one thing left: human reasoning.

Now, human reasoning is really great when it comes to solving most day-to-day problems, but it's not worth a fig when it comes to checking out God.

Yes, Proverbs 3:5 is very good advice:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

And with all the emphasis we place on smarts today, the real issues of life are still a matter of the *heart*.

However, Eve had decided to follow her head rather than her heart.

V 6 **"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took**

**of the fruit thereof, and did eat,
and gave also unto her husband with
her; and he did eat."**

Actually, it's not too surprising that human reasoning came up with "**the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,**" for 1 John 2:16 tells us that's all there is "**in the world.**"

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And even when he tried to tempt Jesus, Satan could only come up with these same three categories.

In Jesus' case, he started out with the desire of the flesh---"**If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.**"

What an appealing suggestion this must have been after a 40-day fast.

"Again, the devil taketh him up into an
exceeding high mountain, and sheweth
him all the kingdoms of the world, and
the glory of them."

Here we have the desire of the eyes, but, of
course Jesus wasn't buying it.

Then he tried "**the pride of life.**"

Cast thyself down from "**a pinnacle of the
temple.**" *The angels will catch you,
and you will be immediately recognized
as their Messiah.*

In each case, Jesus countered the Devil's
temptations by quoting the Word of God.
And we should hide God's word in our hearts
also against the day when Satan tempts
us in these very same areas.

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Well, Eve had a good look at "**the tree of
the knowledge of good and evil,**" and

right away she noticed "**that the tree was good for food.**"

Well, I should think it would be, after all, God made it.

That was the appeal to the desire of the flesh.

But what about all the other fruit in the Garden of Eden? Wasn't it good for food?

Why do we always convince ourselves that forbidden fruit will taste so much better?

Why does the baby tip over his pabulum, trying to reach his father's food, which he is unable to digest?

It's just human nature, isn't it?

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And then she took another look, a very
wishful look, and she discovered that,
"--- it was pleasant to the eyes."
How could something be bad when it looked so
good?

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And she just knew it was **"--- a tree to be
desired to make one wise."**

Now, how in the world did she ever figure
that out?

Actually, she didn't figure it out.

The whole idea had been planted in her heart
by the power of suggestion.

Remember Satan's words--**"then your eyes
shall be opened, and ye shall be as
gods."**

By now she thought it was *her* idea, and it
tickled her pride.

Yes! We can **"be as gods."**

Does that sound a little familiar?

**"I will ascend above the heights of the
clouds; I will be like the most High."**

Ah, yes, Satan had said those very words,
and Eve would be the *second* one to fall
because of pride.

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Next week, we will be looking at another
first.

Yes, Genesis Chapter 3 records the first
time that man experienced God's
judgment.

At first, we might be inclined to think that
God was a little harsh.

After all, it was only stealing apples,
wasn't it?

Actually, we don't really know what kind of
fruit it was, but that's not the point.

You see, it wasn't the apple in the tree
that was the problem. It was the *pair*
on the ground.

No, it wasn't a case of stealing apples. It
was nothing less than rank rebellion.