

Building Holy Families: Lessons from Genesis

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Today we're going to follow the *pedagogy* of marriage and family in the first and foundational book of the Bible, *Genesis*.

I. Marriage in God's Cosmic Plan: Genesis 1-2

The First Statement on Marriage:

27 So 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 to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Gen 1:27-28)

The Second Statement on Marriage

Gen. 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 ... but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; 22 and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

*"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."*

24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

1. Adam's words are _____-making terminology
2. The marriage forms the final _____ in the narrative of creation
3. Marriage is part of the meaning of being in God's "image and likeness"
4. Marriage images God in these ways:
 - a. A multi-personal _____
 - b. A bond of love between two persons whose love becomes a _____: the Trinitarian meaning of marriage, which is the deep ground for openness to life.
 - c. Marriage is the _____ of the Trinity that God plants in the natural world.
5. Marriage is *not* a human _____

It's written into the natural order: our bodies and our psyches.

6. Marriage is also the _____ of God's covenant relationship between Himself and his people.

7. Because *marriage* is an image, indeed, a *sacrament* of the Trinity and the covenant, *wrong views of God and his covenant lead to wrong views of marriage, and vice-versa*. Examples: Atheism, Islam, non-Catholic Christianity

II. Early Offenses Against Marriage and Family

The invention of _____:

19 And Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ... Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, hearken to what I say: I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." (Gen 4:19-23)

The proliferation of polygamy and marriage outside the _____:

When men began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, 2 the *sons of God* saw that the *daughters of men* were fair; and they took to wife such of them as they chose ... 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground ...

III. The Patriarchs and the P_____ Role of the Father

Gen. 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 Thence he removed to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there *he built an altar* to the LORD and *called on the name of the LORD*.

Gen. 13:3 And he journeyed ... as far as Bethel, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first; and there Abram *called on the name of the LORD*.

Gen. 13:18 So Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there *he built an altar* to the LORD.

The building of altars and leadership in worship and prayer ("calling on the name of the LORD") are priestly duties. Before the Levitical priesthood was established, the duty of priest was performed by the father and passed to the firstborn son:

*“The Hebrews affirm ... that every firstborn, from Noah to Aaron, was a priest,”
Glossa Ordinaria on Genesis 14 (Patrologia Latina 198. 1094-95).*

The priestly duty of the father:

(1) Offering _____: *He built an altar*

(2) L_____ in worship/prayer: *He called on the name of the LORD*

(3) I_____ for his children: *He would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of [his children]; for Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned” (Job 1:5)*

(4) _____ his children: *Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, ... God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your descendants with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings which God gave to Abraham!” (Gen 28:1-5)*

IV. Preparing the Next Generation for Marriage

Gen. 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, 4 but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

Gen. 28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, “You shall not marry one of the Canaanite women. 2 Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and take as wife from there one of the daughters of Laban your mother’s brother.

The issue with the Canaanite women was not E _____ but

R_____ and moral! See Leviticus 18

These patriarchs were not leaving the transition to the next generation to

C _____ but were P _____.

Need to stress with our children the importance of marrying within the

F _____, and consider how we can put them in a position to do so.