

God is *Our Good Creator*

God is the **creator**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
Genesis 1:1

God is the **good** creator

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”
Genesis 1:31

““Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. ‘No one is good--except God alone.’”
Mark 10:18

In Gen. 1:31 the Hebrew word **טוֹב** translated as **good** = best or whole.

טוֹב ‘Good’ means: (best; beneficial; whole; efficient; complete, designed for flourishing.)

God is **our** good creator

Our = *mankind, humans beings.*

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*
Genesis 1:27

- ✓ God created all people with value in His image.
- ✓ God created us male and female with different roles.
- ✓ God created the family as the foundation of flourishing human societies.

God the good creator of **Family**

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,
and they shall become one flesh.
And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*
Genesis 2:24-25

*And God blessed them. And God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...”*
Genesis 1:28

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”
Genesis 3:6-8

- ✓ Before sin Adam and Eve had perfect relationships with one another, nature, and God.
- ✓ After sin, they quickly hid themselves from one another and God as shame, guilt and covering resulted.
- ✓ Sin destroys all relationships which is the fabric of God’s good world. This is the first attack on the family

God is the good creator of human marriage

Definition: Marriage is... a sacred, primary, & binding covenant toward oneness between one man & one woman established by God for human procreation and societal flourishing to display the glories of the new covenant between Christ and his Church.

Definition for kids: Marriage is... a holy covenant established by God for the good of all communities where a man and a woman commit to love and care for one another for the rest of their lives. And this should remind us of Jesus who laid down his life for us and is committed to care for us for eternity as we trust our lives to his care and leadership forever.

Marriage is “A sacred” ... “covenant” ... “established by God” (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31)

So we are stewards of God’s good and sacred institution of marriage.

- -not a critic of it to talk of how backwards and outdated it is
- -not a consumer of it for personal pleasure or selfish gain
- -not a designer of it with suggestions for improvement
- -we are to enjoy it within its original design and guard against any distortion of it

Marriage is “A primary” ... “binding” ... “covenant” (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:8-9, Malachi 2:16)

So married couples are to grow together ‘forsaking all others’ remaining faithful ‘till death do us part’

- Marriage is the “**primary**” relationship covenant on earth
- It is a “**binding**” “**covenant**” and commitment for life

So we should never walk in and out of this covenant casually (Mark 10:8-9; Mal. 2:16)

- -God hates divorce. Sin causes all divorce. Adultery is the symbol for Idolatry.
- -As stewards of this sacred covenant we should establish boundaries that safeguard its purity
- -There should be no hint of sexual immorality - no emotional or physical affairs

Marriage is relationship of “one flesh” or “toward oneness” (Genesis 2:24-25)

So we should give our marriage to the goal of becoming “one flesh”

- -With the ultimate goal of physical, spiritual and emotional “**oneness**” (Gen. 2:24)
- -The goal of marriage is oneness for the glory of God symbolized by a triangle.
- -Oneness comes by loving God above all and seeking His guidance and will from His word.
- -Sharing convictions, thinking for “we” not “I”, & consistent communication leads to oneness.
- -Sex was designed within the marriage commitment leading to physical oneness – (Gen. 2:25)



Marriage is... “Between one man and one woman” (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33)

1) A complementarian relationship meant to display the dignity of both male & female distinction & roles.

- So we should marry according to the design of marriage one man, one woman for God’s glory
- So we should relate to one another and function in the roles of male and female for God’s glory
- Man’s role: Protection. Provision. Spiritual leadership. Resolve.
- Women’s role: Nurture. Support. Encourage. Beautify.

Marriage is... “for procreation and societal flourishing” (Genesis 1:28)

2) A society preserving relationship for the raising of children and safeguarding community flourishing.

- The family is the foundation of any healthy society, the breakdown of the family leads to ruin.
- Anything other than God’s design of marriage and family will lead to a withering of society.
- Kids flourish best in homes where strong, devoted fathers love supportive, nurturing mothers.

Marriage is... “to display the glories of the gospel” (Ephesians 5:32)

3) A Gospel displaying relationship designed to point to the most glorious covenant between Christ & his bride

- So we should realize this mystery that marriage ultimately displays Christ and his church.
- Marriage brings about our flourishing but is ultimately designed to point us to eternal flourishing
- Marriage is misunderstood by those who reduce it to merely a pursuit of personal happiness

Discussion:

- How has God’s good design of family been attacked today?
- Can you think of some specific ways the breakdown of the family has led to hurt, pain and societal problems?
- Even in the midst of the sin of man God’s goodness and redemption broke through. Just as God through the pain of Christ’s suffering and death redeemed us from sin... God uses broken relationships and broken families and pain to begin the beautiful restoration process in our lives....

...Share a time when God used a tragic situation or a painful experience or even a family tragedy to begin to restore you to a better relationship with Him.

The Power of Nurturing

Definitions

- **Nurture** in English- to nourish, teach, train, discipline, and direct during a time of development.
- Biblical definition of "Correction"/"Instruction"- to provide instruction as to correct behavior and belief.
- Biblical definition of "Discipline"- to train someone in accordance with proper rules of conduct and behavior.

Passages

- Deuteronomy 6: 4-9: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- Deuteronomy 6: 20-21, 24-25: "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.... 24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.'
- 2 Timothy 1:5-7: I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- 2 Timothy 3: 14-15: But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Quotes

- "When God gives thee a child, He says, as Pharaoh's daughter to Moses' mother 'Take this child.... And nurse it for me'. Though we are but parents of their flesh, we must be careful of their souls, otherwise we ruin them."
- *Thomas Boston*
- (The word "Correct" in Greek) "... signifies both correction and instruction, and so does the English word nurture. They must go together, for instruction without correction will hardly succeed" - *Thomas Boston*

Discussion

- Finish this statement: A mom is someone who
- Name a lady, other than your mom, that was like a mother to you in some way and how they blessed you.
- To nurture is to balance between cuddling and correcting; both hugs & discipline are needed...
Take some time to talk about this balance and how both are necessary for a proper growth environment.
- As you think on the definition of nurture (To nourish, teach, train, discipline, and direct during a time of development.) consider ways that you have been nurtured in the faith, and how you can better nurture the faith of the children God has given you or the young ones God has placed in your life.