

MONTHLY MARRIAGE WORKSHOP  
MONTH 7 / WEEK 2

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# ROLES & THEOLOGY

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OF

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## HUSBAND AND WIFE.



JEFF & ALYSSA BETHKE

# WEEK 2

## LET'S TALK THEOLOGY

There's a ton of places in Scripture to draw inspiration and a picture of what a marriage truly is for, and how to live inside God's design. But two places seem to be the centering points that all others revolve around. It's Genesis 1 and 2, and Ephesians 5.

In Genesis, we find that at the peak moment of God's creation we see Him create not one, yet two creatures. Male plus female. Female made out of the male. They are different, yet made of the same essence. And it says God breathed his very breath into them.

What's interesting is most people talk about the image of God as an individual thing. That God creates individuals in the image of God. Which is true! And such a revolutionary truth for human dignity. But the 'Image of God' doesn't show up until the plural intertwining of male plus female (Genesis 1:27):

*"So God created mankind in his own image,*

*in the image of God he created **them**;*

*male and female he created them."*

It seems to me one seriously overlooked truth in Genesis is that the 'image' of God is seen in its fullness in this male plus female interweaved together in one entity.

What a beautiful picture of marriage! That if we want an image, if we want a picture, then look at a marriage.

And then fast forward to Ephesians where Paul makes the assertion that the intertwining

of male plus female in a marriage in Genesis was, up until the point of Jesus, a mystery (see my bolding below):

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a **great mystery**, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

How incredible is that? There was a level at which marriage and union between a man and woman were profound but not yet fully understood. But in Jesus, Paul says we can fully see the entire depth and meaning between this beautiful relationship.

And what is that meaning? A model of Christ and the church! That marriage is but a dance or play acting out the divine drama of a greater reality and that is Jesus pursuing and dying for His people, and those people leaning into Him more and more intertwining as one in covenant.

### QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

First, spend time if you haven't already, by opening your Bibles to Genesis Chapter 1 and Ephesians 5. Read them in their entirety, out loud, together as a couple.

1. To the husband, would you say you properly understand your role as the actor of Jesus in the divine drama of marriage?

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2. To the wife, would you say you properly understand your role as the actor of the church in the divine drama of marriage?

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3. What are the hardest parts of playing your role as Jesus or the church?

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4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate how well your marriage is currently reflecting 'the Image of God' or this drama in this season? Where are you doing well and where are you missing it? How could you grow this?

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 10

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