

The Covenantal Life
Week 2 - The Marriage Covenant
Genesis 2:18-25

- Marriage is the foundational human covenant - “prototypical covenant,” first human government
 - The most common analogy of the relationship between God and His people
 - Central to man’s mission of filling the earth with the image of God and ruling over creation
 - Marriage is necessary - God makes this clear by revealing deficiency in creation
 - Adam’s joy is in the creation of one to be joined to him—a wife—not merely a companion, friend, or partner
- Genesis 2:22-24 is the instructive paradigm for the covenant of marriage
 - 2:22 - God institutes a new kind of relationship and delegates authority in that relationship to the husband
 - Federal headship is a crucial element of covenant - responsibility rests with one who represents the whole covenant community
 - Headship ramifications play out in chapter 3, as well as in Adam naming Eve
 - 2:23 - Covenant vow made with God as witness
 - “Bone...flesh” indicates union, bonding, not merely shared humanity
 - Addressed to God, not to Eve - calls on God to unite and treat them as one
 - Specifically connotes covenantal union (Gen. 29:14, 2 Sam. 5:1-3)
 - 2:24 - Ties together the whole narrative with a universally applicable declaration
 - The pattern set for all mankind is leave - hold fast - one flesh
 - Replacement of primary loyalty to parents with spouse
 - Language of “leave” and “hold fast” is also overtly covenantal
 - “One flesh” is a real permanent union, not a euphemism - familial bond instituted
 - This reality is the predicate for all marital duties
- God is covenant witness and enforcer - Malachi 2:10-16
 - Alludes to prototypical marriage of Adam and Eve and proclaims the self-destructive consequences God pours out against unfaithful spouses
 - Paul makes the same point about covenant curses (Eph. 5:28-31), rooted in the first marriage
- Sexual union is the sign of the covenant - signifies blessings and curses
 - Union, self-giving, sacrificial love, children
 - Self-destruction of an extension of one’s own body - self-harm