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GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN IN LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 38
EPHESIANS 4:10

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EPHESIANS 4:10 "He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)"

This verse says that, "He who descended keeps on being the same one who ascended far above all heavens." The descent has to do with his death on the cross. On the cross Christ solved the problem of man's relationship to God. Man is born spiritually dead and therefore has no relationship to God, but through Jesus Christ and his atonement, a way is opened so man can have relationship with God. On the cross all of our sins were judged. Christ died spiritually for our sins, and then he died physically when he said, "Father, into thy hands I hand back my human spirit." At that time his body went into the grave, his spirit went to heaven to be with God, and his soul went to paradise (and paradise is a compartment of Hades or Sheol). Then Christ arose on the third day and forty days later he ascended to his Father. At that time the Lord said to Christ, "Sit on my right hand until thine enemies are made thy footstool." At that moment God the Father was addressing the humanity of Christ, for we know deity cannot sit down and be compressed into one locality. Christ was glorified in his hypostatic union. His humanity was glorified when he ascended. Once glorified, Christ must have a bride, and before he has a bride, the bride must have a body. So the Church Age was established to provide a body for Christ. Fallen angels will be made Christ's footstool and then his body will be taken up and that body will become the bride of Christ. To prepare this body to become the bride, Christ shares with them his mind, which is Bible doctrine. In 1 Cor. 2:16 this is called "The mind of Christ." The body on earth has a deficiency and the deficiency is Bible doctrine. In the future when we have a resurrection body, we will be with Christ and his mind will be in us. This passage here in Ephesians tells us that we have a deficiency and the glorified Son of God will fill up that deficiency in us.

Where Does This Take Place?

"Far above all heavens" is the place where all of this happens. It is the place of the glorification of Christ and in that place Christ is superior to all angels. At the moment when Christ became superior to all angels and was glorified, another stage of the angelic conflict began.

EPHESIANS 1:20-23 "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

We are now in the intensified stage of the angelic conflict. Jesus is absent from the earth and Satan and fallen angels can no longer get to him, so they center their attack on us on the earth. To fortify us for this conflict we are given the indwelling Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine. Christ is the Living Word and Bible doctrine is the written word.

"That" introduces a purpose clause. "He might fill" is an aorist, active, subjunctive of the word "Pleroo." It means to fill up a deficiency. Aorist tense refers to any point of time when we learn Bible doctrine which he teaches us. The active voice means that Christ does this for us himself. The subjunctive mood means that it is potential and we can take it or leave it, we can learn it or refuse to learn it. Christ has the supply and he can fill our deficiency, but he will not force it on us against our will. He is too much of a gentleman to do that. But remember, he is the only one who can fill our deficiency and his supply is locked up in Bible doctrine.

So please open your mind, rebound and get in fellowship, for this is one of the most important studies you will ever make. We need to be in perfect fellowship in order to study this passage.

Turn to 1 Cor. 11:7.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:7 "For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man." This language actually says, "A man ought not to put a veil around his face." The word for man here is "aner" and means man in the noble sense. Man has the ability to love the woman and in this analogy being made here, man represents the believer. Every believer is a believer in the noble sense. Now why should a man not put a veil around his face? In human love, the man must be revealed, he must be seen. "A veil over his face" suggests homosexuality or an effeminate nature. The veil is the hair of a man. (Illustration--A sheep dog can't be seen. He has hair hanging down over his face and you just see his black nose sticking out. We would say, "The sheep dog is not revealed.") So a man should never veil his face with such long hair that he can't be seen, and that's the principle involved here in this passage.

"Forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God." The word for "is" in this phrase is "hupargo" and it means "to come into existence" and it means that God created man this way. He created man with the image and glory of God. God has essence, which is his perfect character, and man has a soul. In man's soul there is self-consciousness, mentality, volition, emotion, conscience, and an old sin nature.

In creation man was brought on the scene as an aggressor, one to respond to God. But though he was a responder to God, he was an aggressor toward the whole universe. But there was something missing. Man dominated the whole animal and physical kingdom. But man had a deficiency and he had no one in the physical world to whom he could express his love.

The Creation Of The Woman

God took part of Adam's body and designed a woman and he designed her in such a way that she would be a responder to man, just as man is a responder to God. Eve was the right woman and Adam was the right man. Adam was to respond with love.

This passage therefore says, "As man is the glory of God, so the woman is the glory of the man."

The Image Of God

A man ought not to veil himself, since he is the image of God. Image comes from the Greek word "Eikon" and it means two things. It means the exact image or it means a resemblance. Here it means a resemblance.

SEVEN POINTS OF MAN'S BEING CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

1. There is a resemblance between God as the initiator of grace toward the man, and man as the initiator of love toward the woman. That's why man is in the image of God. He resembles God in the way he responds.
2. God has essence and man has essence. The essence of God is his perfect character. The essence of man is his soul.
3. The soul, which comes from the word "Pseuche" is feminine, has ability to respond and has five apertures. They are all designed to take in truth, Bible doctrine.
4. The analogy here is that since the soul has apertures, so the woman has apertures in her soul, and they are so designed to fill up the deficiency in the right man. The right man fills the soul of the right woman, just as Bible doctrine fills the soul of the believer. So we have a perfect analogy here, a spiritual to a physical analogy.
5. In the physical analogy, the man gives himself to the right woman and she responds. The woman has the capacity to respond in her body and in her soul.
6. Woman is designed to be a responder--and this ability is given to the woman by God. In the spiritual realm, Bible doctrine comes and touches the mind of the believer and the believer responds. It is all by grace. Her response to the man is so glorious it becomes her glory and she becomes the glory of the man. (This is done in privacy.)
7. God provides salvation by grace and man responds. Man inhales the gospel and exhales faith toward God. Now this establishes the pattern for this analogy. Man is the image and glory of God. God is the aggressor and man is the responder--that's the spiritual part of this analogy. Then in the physical part of this analogy, man is the aggressor and woman is the responder. In the spiritual realm, the church is the body of Christ and is the responder to the aggressor, who is Christ. Now after the body is completed, the body becomes the bride.
 2 Cor. 11:2
 Ephesians 5:25-27
 The believer on earth receives doctrine so the deficiency can be filled up. That is exactly what Ephesians 4:10 says.

Now let's look at the physical side. Man fell from his original position and had to be brought back into relationship by what we call regeneration. In the last phrase of verse 7 of Corinthians 11, it says, "The woman is the glory of the man" and the word for is comes from "eimi" and it means she always will be the glory of the man. This is why single girls should know doctrine and learn the principles of life and love, rather than go shopping with an empty head for some male for whom she is not prepared to be a responder. Girls, you go to the Word of God and learn the foundation of true love, and then the right man will come along in due time.

(Illustration--When Adam woke up from the operation and there standing beside him was Eve. And God brought Eve to Adam and he said something like this--"Why hello, honey, I've been looking for you all of my life.")

The Lord led the woman to the man. Now you go to the Lord and he will lead the right man or the right woman to you. You go out hunting for one on your own and you'll get in up over your ears before you realize it. Your real deficiency isn't a man, your real deficiency is Bible doctrine.

THE WOMAN, AS THE GLORY OF THE MAN

1. The woman was taken from the first Adam, she was not directly created.
2. The woman was designed by God to be the responder to the man. She was given both soul and body responses. This explains why the woman's body is different from the man's.
3. As with Adam, there is a right man for every right woman, and a right woman for every right man.
4. So when the right man finds the right woman, the deficiency of both is fulfilled, and that's why the woman is the glory of the man.
5. Just as Bible doctrine fills the believer's soul, so the right man fulfills the right woman in the physical sexual side of marriage.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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."

Notice the words "Husbands, love your wives." The man is the aggressor. Please notice in this passage just read that the Lord cleanses the church "by the Word." It's the word in the soul that prepares a man or woman for marriage.

The church is set apart by the word.

The woman is set apart by the word.

Then in verse 27 of the passage just read above, the rapture of the church is referred to, and at that time, the Christians will be rid of their old sin natures and will become the Bride of Christ.

6. In the fulfillment of the woman's soul, there are the apertures for response. Her body is designed just as her soul, to respond to the man in marriage.
7. Doctrine was designed by God to be taken in so we can respond by the exhale of faith.

8. As the woman is the glory of the man through the culmination of the marriage bond and taken into her body, so the believer is the glory of God taken into the soul.

THREE PRINCIPLES FROM THIS SCRIPTURE

1. The soul is designed to take in doctrine. The soul is designed to inhale doctrine and exhale faith and grace and happiness and capacity to love. The soul is by nature negative, but when doctrine flows in and the negative becomes a positive, then we are in position to grow in the Christian life.
2. There is one part of the soul not designed to take in doctrine and this is the Old Sin Nature. Now self-consciousness, mentality, volition, conscience, and emotion can all take in doctrine, but the old sin nature has no aperatures to take in doctrine and God has no relationship with the old sin nature. The only thing that can come from the old sin nature is sin and human good.
3. This passage is located in the context of the Lord's Supper as given in 1 Corinthians 11. It says, "Keep on doing this in remembrance of me." In a sense, each Christian is a communion table, and in every day life we are to take in the Word of God and remember Him every day.