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W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

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WHY THE HUSBAND IS THE CHIEF

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 62
EPHESIANS 5:23

Dr. W. O. Vaught, Jr.
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

EPHESIANS 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

In these verses we are studying a doctrine that is as old as the human race. Before Adam and Eve ever sinned in the Garden of Eden, this doctrine was in operation. The right man and the right woman had a soul relationship and a body relationship. Now for some strange reason many warped minds have suggested that the eating of the fruit in the Garden of Eden was in some way connected with sex. That is one of the most ridiculous conclusions one could ever imagine and there is not one word of Scripture that will in any way substantiate this conclusion. The sin in the Garden of Eden had no connection with sex but was rather connected with the negative volition man exemplified toward God. The disobedience of Adam and Eve in eating the forbidden fruit was a volitional sin, a sin of the will which was involved with their mental attitude. In the state of innocence, Adam and Eve lived in sexual perfection and there is not one syllable of evidence that sex had anything to do with the original sin of man.

EPHESIANS 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Here in this verse we have another analogy. Right man and right woman is a relationship which is an analogy of Christ and his church. The word translated "for" is from "hoti" and "hoti" never means for but it means "because." If women ask the question, "Why am I supposed to be under the control of my husband?" here is God's answer. God says in this verse, "You are to submit to his control because the man is a 'noble man' and he is the head of the woman. This is the way I have designed marriage and it will be this way as long as there is a human race."

An Eternal Truth

It says that the husband "is" and the word is "eimi" and that is the word of eternal state, it is the word of a permanent relationship and a permanent arrangement. It was this way in the Garden of Eden and it will be this way until the end of time. Now man can twist it and try to change it and alter it, but it will still be God's standard for marriage right down to the end of time. ONCE A WOMAN FINDS HER RIGHT MAN, THERE NEVER WILL BE A TIME WHEN HE IS NOT THE CHIEF IN THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP. The word "head" here means "chief." You may try to rationalize this and explain it away, but still it is true. If everybody in the nation jumps on the women's lib bandwagon and every state in the union ratified the "Equal Rights Ammendment," it still won't change a thing as far as God's Word is concerned. The man, according to the plan of God, is the chief of the woman and of the home. This is the design of God for marriage and has been since the first man and first woman came to live on this earth. The word for woman is "gune" and someone who must have had it in for women got the word "goon" from it.

Now We turn to Jeremiah 31

Here we are in for a big shock. If the women feel they have been discriminated against up to this point, let me remind them their inning is coming, and God will see to it that they get a square deal. There

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is no double standard in the marriage relationship. In some of the Scripture we have studied, the man has been the hero and the woman has been presented as the unfaithful one. But the reason for this is that the analogy has been about the Lord (who is always faithful) and his people (who are always unfaithful). The Lord has always been faithful to his people and will always be. So in our analogy thus far, the man has been likened to the Lord and in this kind of analogy the man has thus far escaped. But his "come up-pance" is now upon us and the man will be shown in his proper light. So in this passage we are to study, you will see the shoe on the other foot.

Here in Jeremiah 31 we have the truth presented that just as doctrine is to the believer, so right man is to his right woman. In Jeremiah 31 doctrine is the right man, so quite obviously the woman is going to be faithless. The believer is, in this analogy, the right woman. Over in Proverbs 5 we will find still another analogy, and it goes this way-- As the believer is to doctrine, so is the right man to the right woman. The believer must not neglect doctrine, just as the man must not neglect his right woman. He must not be faithless. In Proverbs 5 the man is shown as being faithless, and that's the first time we have had such a passage. Women, please take courage, your time is coming!

JEREMIAH 31:1 "At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people." This is the same analogy as we have had before. The Lord is pictured in this analogy as the right man and Israel is presented as the right woman and they belong together.

JEREMIAH 31:2 "Thus saith the Lord, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest." This is simply a statement of grace. They didn't deserve such treatment, but God was faithful to these believers, just as he always is.

JEREMIAH 31:3 "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." God is the right man and Israel is the right woman. So God says here, "You belong to me, Israel, and therefore, I have drawn you to me."

JEREMIAH 31:4 "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry." In this passage this is what God says--I have a wonderful party planned for you and growing in your soul will be an eternal edification complex and you will live with me forever and ever. Just as there is a right man for a right woman, so God is the right man for Israel.

This analogy moves on in this passage, and in verses 5-9 we have a picture of the Millennial reign of Christ and a picture of Israel restored in the land and living there in belief.

JEREMIAH 31:14 "And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord." Even though the Jews were placed under discipline, that discipline will finally be over and Israel will be restored and will learn doctrine. Israel will come to the time when she will be satisfied with the Word of God and will make a fantastic response.

JEREMIAH 31:15 "Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." But before that restoration will take place, Nebuchadnezzar will come from Babylon and will destroy Jerusalem and will take the nation into captivity. "Ramah" mentioned here was the headquarters where Nebuchadnezzar set up his camp and directed his Jerusalem campaign from Ramah. So this is an analogy to that conquest. Lamentation and bitter weeping is what happens when the right woman is unfaithful to the right man. This unfaithfulness results in mental attitude bitterness in the mind of the right woman. This bitterness is defined in HEBREWS 12:15 "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;" In this verse we learn that bitterness is a mental attitude reaction toward the right man.

JEREMIAH 31:16 "Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy." This verse reminds us that the teaching of doctrine will be rewarded. In 586 B.C. they will go out to captivity in Babylon, but in 70 years they will come back to the land and in 516 B.C. the Temple will be rebuilt. There is a right man and a right woman just as God was the only right man for Israel.

JEREMIAH 31:17 "And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border." This verse gives the result. It is always the promise that God gives to the right man and the right woman. The analogy is changed a bit. If you as a believer will submit to doctrine, which is your right man, then you will have inner happiness and stability. You can't have one without the other. Doctrine stored in the mind brings inner happiness every time. You were meant for each other.

JEREMIAH 31:19 "Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth." Once you turned back to Bible doctrine, your life straightened out and remembering the sins of your youth, you determined that you would never return to those doctrineless days of futility.

JEREMIAH 31:22 "How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the Lord hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man." Here is the verse that applies specifically to Ephesians 5:23. Let us get the correct translation here. This verse actually says, "A woman shall produce a man." In fact, this is another statement of the Virgin Birth. The seed of the woman will produce a man. So Christ is the right man for Israel and for every believer. In our next analogy we will see the beautiful picture how Christ keeps on being the chief of the church. In other words, Christ is the right man for the church, who is the right woman. In Jeremiah 31:22 we read, "The Lord hath created a new thing in the earth" and the word for create is "bara" and it means to create something out of nothing. It says, "A woman shall produce a man" and the word for woman is "neqebah" and is translated "woman" and means female and it is given here to show her soul and body is designed to respond to one man. In other words, this word "neqebah" suggest right man and right woman. Just like Mary was picked out to be the right woman to produce the right man, Jesus Christ, which is the Virgin Birth, God is saying that he has created this principle for the whole human race--right man and right woman.

Now we turn for a moment to Proverbs 5

Here is where the right man steps out of line and we see the other side of the coin. Up to this time we have seen the analogy of the Lord to Israel as right man is to the right woman. We have also seen the analogy of doctrine to the believer. Now we turn the analogy around and see how the man is often the unfaithful one.

Here in Proverbs 5 the analogy is this--The believer must not neglect doctrine just like the right man must not neglect his right woman.

PROVERBS 5:1 "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:" Wisdom here refers to Bible doctrine located in the human spirit. The bowing of the ear means the recognition of the authority on the one who is teaching doctrine. This is family teaching, the father teaching the son. The theme of this passage is that the man must be faithful to the right woman.

PROVERBS 5:3 "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:" So to get to the analogy he begins with what he calls "the strange woman" who is the wrong woman. With her smooth speech and flattery, she exalts you until you feel like a king.

PROVERBS 5:4 "But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword." But look at the result. It is always this way. The end of the relationship of right man and wrong woman is always bitter. When the right man leaves the right woman and goes to the cheap substitute, it is always bitter.

PROVERBS 5:5 "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell." This is the end result of a wrong cheap substitute.

PROVERBS 5:6 "Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them." This verse needs a better translation and an explanation. It really means this. The wrong partner is not a part of your life. It never has been and never can be. When you give your glory to the wrong partner, it is always disaster and bitterness and disappointment.

PROVERBS 5:12 "And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;" Now how does one get into a mess like this? By hating instruction. By hating teaching.

PROVERBS 5:15 "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well." Here is the formula. Right man and right woman. This is God's only design.

PROVERBS 5:17 "Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee." Stick to your only right partner and this is the only design God has for marriage.

PROVERBS 5:18 "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth." Married life is one relationship and it remains one for life.

PROVERBS 5:21 "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings." When the right man has his right woman, the eyes of the Lord follow his path and will protect all his goings. The Lord set up the right man and right woman relationship and he will protect it forever.

The whole analogy in this passage is this--You can go off to false doctrine if you want to and get involved in all kinds of strange kinds of emotional charismatic things. You can speak in tongues and dedicate yourself and confess your sins to others and become a superficial, spiritual fool but there is no substitute for your right partner, which is Bible doctrine.