



*The Greatest Story
Ever Told*

Marriage: The Law of Love 1

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ASCRIBE PUBLICATIONS

— Matt. 13:44-52 —

“BECAUSE I WILL PUBLISH THE NAME OF THE LORD:
ASCRIBE YE GREATNESS UNTO OUR GOD”

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“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him... And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.” (Genesis 2:18, 21-22)

Before sin ever entered our world, when both the sapphire planet (earth) and mankind were in a state of perfection fresh from the Creator’s hand, there were two blessings enjoined upon the human race. These two institutions have stood as memorials, twin towers of sorts reminding humanity that the stability of all society rests upon these two foundational pillars.

Not only are these two blessings at the core of what would later be spelled out upon the two tables of stone given to Moses, but they are a reflection of the two great commandments that obligate us to love vertically (toward God) and horizontally (toward humanity).

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Just as a nail is fastened to a wall first, and then a plaque is hung from it, so are the two great commandments the underlying principles upon which the two tables of stone

hang. The details of how to show love to God are specified in the first four commandments, and the specifics of how to love our neighbor are detailed in the last six commandments.

The vertical love that is to ascend to God, and the horizontal love that is to extend to our neighbor is how the law was summarized when all minds were in harmony with righteousness, and sin did not exist. However, after the intrusion of sin brought in the notes of discord, the minds that became out of tune with the will of God needed to be instructed on what to do, and even more so what not to do.

The blessing of marriage, one of the sacred institutions gifted to mankind before sin, is intricately entangled within the second great commandment to “love thy neighbor as thyself,” and it is the blessing of marriage that will be the focus of this discourse, part 1 of “The Law of Love.” (The second blessing which is connected to the first great commandment, will be discussed in part 2).

Before there was a mother and father, before there was a son or daughter, before there was an uncle, aunt, cousin, or stranger, there was Adam with his wife. One male united to one female. Prior to the time in which sin was added into the equation bringing with it the selfishness that is the product of the fallen nature, Adam’s mind was in such harmony with God, the law of love summarized in the second great commandment so vividly written upon his heart, he knew without being taught just how to relate to this new “neighbor” as soon as she was brought into his view.

“And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 2:23-24)

From the moment Adam's eyes traced the form of Eve, he understood just how to treat her, he loved her as himself, and in his utterance the reflection of the second great commandment can be vividly seen. The very manner in which God chose to produce Eve (from the rib of Adam) was to convey this lesson without words, cherish her as your own bones and your own flesh. The subsequent manner in which God designed for the human race to be expanded through child birth was to further solidify this lesson from generation to generation.

As the husband and wife were to come together as one flesh, each giving a piece of themselves to produce a new life, the two of them were to see their own bones and their own flesh mingled together as one in this new "neighbor" born from them into their society. They were to love the child as themselves. Then as the child grew in such a nurturing environment, he was to understand the respect due to his father and mother his first "neighbors," the two halves of himself. This is reflected in the fifth commandment, which is the first of the commandments hanging from the great principle of "love thy neighbor as thyself."

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Exodus 20:12)

Paul in the New Testament echoes this sentiment, and himself calls the fifth commandment the "first" commandment with promise.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

As the reasoning capacity of children matures, and they come to understand the process of their own existence, they are to appreciate their parents and their “neighbor” siblings as their own self seeing they are all of the same bone and the same flesh. This idea was to continue as children grew and themselves became husbands and wives, thereby extending the society of neighbors to aunts, uncles, and cousins, yet through Adam and Eve, all of humanity still being one bone and one flesh.

What a beautiful society humanity was intended to have with every family seeing other families as extensions of their own family. Desiring others to have in their family unit the same happiness they enjoy, or in other terms to “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

The curse of sin however quickly ruined this ideal. The door of the mind being thrown open to satan, thoughts of selfishness, jealousy, and rivalry entered in to compete with the principle of love enshrined in the second great commandment.

In the beginning it was said of man and woman, “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*” (Genesis 1:27)

After sin it was stated of the children of Adam, “*Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image...*” (Genesis 5:3)

Adam in his un-fallen state had a mind in perfect harmony with the mind of God. But upon exercising his free-will to act contrary to the commandment of God through the deception of satan, he granted the enemy access to his mind, and to the mind of every child born in “his image,” or in other words with his fallen nature.

The irreparable damage to the moral compass of man was quickly realized in the horror of the first recorded homicide, when Cain in rage murdered his younger brother, one who he should have loved and protected as his own bone, and his own flesh. Such depravity made it necessary for God to hang the sixth commandment from the second great principle to love the neighbor as thyself.

“Thou shalt not kill.” (Exodus 20:13)

Of course as this depravity matured, the sacred blessing of marriage was not respected, and private property was perpetually in jeopardy. Lies occupied the place of truth, and selfish desires ruled the hearts of the human family. To counteract all of these satanic thoughts flooding into the minds of men, God hang other commandments to clarify His thought in the second great commandment “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

“Thou shalt not commit adultery: Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.” (Exodus 20:14-17)

As we come to the close of the Ten Commandments, it is hard to ignore how often the word “neighbor” occurs. Thus it is signified that these commandments are an expression of that second great commandment to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” Do not steal from, do not commit adultery against, nor kill (“thy neighbor”).

These last six of the Ten Commandments state the bare minimum requirements of “love thy neighbor,” by telling us what “not” to do. However the great commandment upon which these are based tell us what “to do,” “love” thy neighbor. Christ while addressing this

principle through the parable of “the good Samaritan” (Luke 10:29-37) magnifies the true requirements of the law. You will notice in reading this account, neither the priest or the Levite did anything to harm the injured man, but only the Samaritan who showed mercy upon him was judged as honoring the law of “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Regrettably much of what God originally intended humanity to be has been lost sight of, or dreadfully perverted. The blessing of marriage ordained prior to transgression was not withdrawn from humanity, nor altered after sin’s inception. Even more so in our fallen nature would the stable environment of two loving parents (one male, one female) be needed to balanced mind of the child, and establish the child in the two great principles “love God with all the heart,” and “love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Because the blessing of marriage is so intermingled with the foundation of this second great commandment, satan in his efforts to undermine and overthrow the law God has from the earliest days of earth’s history made the marriage covenant a special point of attack. Cain who’s conscious was stained with the murder of his brother, bear a lineage of children who became the instruments of satan in his warfare against the law of God.

”And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.” (Genesis 4:19)

Anyone who reads the record of Lamech’s polygamy, and gives attention to the details chronicled concerning the children born to this perversion of the marriage relationship, might conclude that the outcome was more positive than negative, or even advantageous when looking from a purely earthly perspective. The verses following Genesis 4:19 chronicling the achievements of Lamech’s children reveal...

“And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.” (Genesis 4:20-22)

Lamech's disregard of the law of love that governs marriage allowed him to increase his numbers much more rapidly than those bound by allegiance to the government of God. Even more striking is the revelation that Lamech's offspring became leaders in industry and talent. The attractive compositions of harp and organ music no doubt widened the circumference of their influence. Some might ask as I once did, “Why would God reward them with such industry and talent if obedience to His law is as important as some say it is?”

The first answer to that question is, we shouldn't conclude that the things listed here were not also being achieved by those living in obedience to God. What we read in the account of Cain's descendents is how things developed among them. Jabal is said to be the “father of such as have cattle,” but we read of Abel prior to this, “Abel was a keeper of sheep..” (Genesis 4:2).

God does not withhold every blessing from man until man renders Him obedience. On the contrary God ordains that every person born should have capabilities and potential for development. It is what we do with that capability and potential that will be weighed in the balance when He judges every individual.

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye

may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:44-45)

Though there are special blessings reserved for those who render God obedience, in general the blessings of God are given to all as freely as the sunshine that brightens everyone’s day, and the rain that produces crops for everyone to eat.

Secondly those who rebel against the government of the Heavenly Father have help in the development of all their potential. Christ said to His disciples “...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8)

Children have parents, and in the case of “the children of the world” Christ names their father...

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.” (John 8:44)

(For a detailed description of the character and work of satan, read the second pamphlet in this series entitled, “Sworn Adversary To All Nations.”)

The point is that there are two influences at work. God gives to mankind gifts and blessings, and satan exerts his influence to pervert them to bring about a curse. God has established laws concerning the love relationship that would be a strong foundation for a secure happy family to built upon (one husband, one wife), that when connected to other such families creates a peaceful, loving, stable society, that blossoms into a flourishing nation, and ultimately a world of peace.

On the other hand satan's influence leads humanity to redefine the law of marriage as began with Lamech's polygamy, and continues even today with the "gay marriage" controversy. Yet when Christ was questioned concerning the subject of marriage, He pointed back to what God established at the beginning during creation week, as his unchanging standard for the marriage relationship. Sin has changed many things in the minds of humanity, but sin has not changed the mind of the Sovereign Father.

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.” (Matthew 19:4-8)

Male and female was, is, and ever shall be God's approved standard for marriage, and the law of love restricts the obedient to one spouse. But the heart under the influenced of sin is at the very least selfish on one end of the spectrum, and beyond that desires excess and perversion. The sexual relationship meant to bind together a husband and wife in the purpose of glorifying God, as well as producing and raising children they could nurture together, has been degraded to mere self-gratification and various degrees of lust.

In the mind restrained by sin it seems love must find its expression in the sexual relationship, yet God's standard of love as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13:5 states, *“Love Does not behave itself inappropriately; seeketh not her own.”*

Also Romans 13:10 says, *“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”* According to 1John 3:4 *“Sin is the transgression of the law,”* and, *“The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)”*

Love when it is of the purest quality does not seek to express itself through inappropriate behavior, nor does it seek its own gratification. True love does not want any harm to come to the recipient of its love, now or in the future. True love ever seeks the best for the one it loves. True love would surely desire to see the person they love live forever in eternal joy.

God has prepared an eternal place of love and peace for all who will honor His commandments. How can any in the name of love, prevent the person they claim to love, from obtaining a place in heaven by the sinful expression of love through forbidden sex? Are there no feelings of guilt after committing acts that trade eternal bliss for moments of pleasure?

Heterosexuals and homosexuals alike are guilty of gross violations and dishonor against the laws of God concerning love and marriage, yet express great outrage when they feel they have been violated or dishonored. Is it not absurd for men and women who engage in fornication, having sexual relationships with people with whom they are not married, to be offended if they find that person is at the same time sexually involved with another?

Why should we who dishonor the laws of God, believe that those we dishonor His law with, should show us the honor of exclusivity that the law of God commands? How is it that we want what the law offers, yet refuse to offer obedience to the law?

Heterosexuals have by these violations produced children outside of wedlock and deprived them of that

protective circle of love that the law enjoins upon parents. Thus the cycle continues from generation to generation, and the increasing violence and crime reflected in society, is but the cry of children who mature in a lawless home. On the darker side of these violations of the law of love, are countless numbers of aborted babies, adding the sin of murder to the already heavy ledger of immorality.

Homosexuals ironically aren't satisfied with enjoying their forbidden relationship according to the free-will God has given us to choose to obey him or not, but insist upon trying to clothe their prohibited association in the sanctity and honor of marriage.

How is it not perceived that satan is influencing the thoughts of "heterosexuals" not to get married when it is lawful for them to do so, but to instead enjoy the privileges of marriage outside of marriage thus dishonoring His law of love. While at the same time influencing the thoughts of "homosexuals" with a desire to get married, thus desecrating this sacred union in the sight of heaven and earth.

Doubtless there will be some who take offense to this straight forward declaration of the Biblical standards of love, but the purpose is not to offend. The purpose is to awaken the consciousness of a generation whose moral sense have been deadened through false education, and overexposure to sin.

To love everyone regardless of nationality, gender, or creed is not only allowed by God but commanded by Him. However God has established laws to govern the expression of that love. You may love someone of the opposite sex who is married to another, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through a sexual relationship with them. You may love someone of the opposite sex who is single, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to

express that love through a sexual relationship with them outside of marriage. You may love someone of the same sex, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through a sexual relationship with them under any circumstances. You may love children, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through a sexual relationship with them under any circumstances. You may love animals, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through a sexual relationship with them under any circumstances. You may love yourself, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through sexual gratification of your self under any circumstances. You may love your spouse of the opposite sex, and it is lawful in the sight of God to express that love through a sexual relationship with them, but it is unlawful in the sight of God and a sin to express that love through sodomy and other perversions.

And yet despite all of this, God has given each individual the power of free-will, and that God given right to choose each individual must exercise for themselves. It is only my hope that those who read these words, will seek the highest expressions of love, by seeking to have a heart and a mind renewed by the grace of God. Whether you are a heterosexual born with a desire to fornicate and be with multiple partners, or a homosexual born with a desire to be with someone of the same sex, the gospel of Jesus Christ states emphatically...

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

And you may wonder as did Nicodemus..

“How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the

kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” (John 3:3-7)

The marriage relationship, the cleaving of the husband unto his wife, and the children born from this sacred union has deep spiritual significance. And he who’s influence has perverted the marriage relationship, and he who’s influence has perverted the gospel of Jesus Christ are one of the same, which is none other than the fallen angel Lucifer (famously known as satan).

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and thus claims the right to govern His Creation and all that is in it. Every blessing, every restriction, all things created, all things allowed, and all things not allowed were put in place with the foreknowledge that humanity would be lured into sin by Lucifer, and would need to be delivered. Chiefly the marriage relationship of husband wife is a mysterious illustration of the love between Christ and His church. In the end, when all things are finished, and the redeemed from among humanity are reunited with God in heaven, the marriage relationship having served its purpose to teach visibly what is invisible to the world, will be done away with.

”For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry; nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.” (Mark 12:25)

Paul in speaking to the Ephesians concerning the mysterious union those who accept the gospel have in Christ, penned a most revealing insight into the blessing of marriage and the relationship between husband and wife. A beautiful spiritual lesson reflected in the law of love God established from the foundation of the earth.

“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. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Ephesians 5:25-33)

From the days of Cain, and as long as time remains, satan will attack in every way imaginable this sacred tower of marriage, one of the two blessings given to humanity in Eden to guide our thoughts back to a time when sin had not filled our world with violence and confusion. This tower of love having fallen in America by legislative decrees and Supreme Court rulings, is only the initial shock preceding the fall of the other sacred tower now in the cross hairs of Lucifer’s terrorist conspiracy.

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.” (Micah 4:8)

This booklet is an appeal to all of us who have been guilty of sin in the name of love, Christ is able and desirous to forgive and cleanse our life, and give us grace to be obedient to His law of love. He says...*“If ye love ME, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)*

Will you take the simple step of asking God to give you the Holy Spirit to guide you into all the truth of the Bible, and investigate if the things you have just read are true?

Yes? _____

“These were more noble...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily; whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11)

Or No? _____

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)



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