

God's Order of Creation

(Rest, Life, Work, Marriage)

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Text: Genesis 2

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Series: Genesis

Theme and Text: Open your Bible to **Genesis 2**. The title of our message tonight is "God's Gifts to Man & Order of Creation".

Intro: The very foundations of our society were established by God at the Creation of the world. Four pillars are established in Genesis 2: Rest, Life, Work, and Marriage). If we rearrange the order of creation, we will create chaos, confusion, and misery. Consider how we as a society have rejected God's Day of Rest, respect for Life, the Work Ethic, and we are now redefining marriage. Our society is hitting the brick wall over and over again, and we are falling apart. The only answer is redemption in Jesus Christ. Until then, the foundations will constantly be under attack. The leaders of our country for the most part are blind to this because they have rejected God. They have rejected God's order of creation in Genesis 2.

I. The first order of creation is the Day of Rest for Man to Enjoy God.

Genesis 2:1-3, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."

God rested on the seventh day. Of course, God was not tired. He never slumbers or sleeps. The purpose for God's rest was to show that God created something amazing and holy and wonderful that reflected God's beauty. When God completed His work, it was perfect. There was nothing that could be added to make it better. It was very good. Everything was in order. There was no sin on the earth at that time. The animals were all tame. Adam and Eve were without sin. Everything was harmonious.

A. The purpose of the Sabbath. That very first day that man was created, he enjoyed the presence of God in perfect worship. God's work was so amazing, that He instituted a Day for man to celebrate Himself. It is called the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day was instituted before the Law of Moses, but it was not made to bind people to rules, but instead to enjoy God. As Jesus said in **Mark 2:27**, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." The Sabbath is made for man to stop from his labor and enjoy God and worship Him.

B. The picture of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is not an end in and of itself, but points, as does all of God's Law, to Jesus Christ. Today, our Sabbath is Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 3 and 4, the Lord talks about how most of the children of Israel died in the wilderness, and never entered into God's Sabbath rest. In chapter 4, he

compares that with coming to rest in Christ by faith. He says the promise still stands.

Hebrews 4:1-2, 9-11, “Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news [the Gospel] came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened..... 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.”

What was the disobedience of the people of Moses’ and Joshua’s day? It was unbelief. Our ultimate Sabbath is rest in Jesus Christ. They did not enter God’s rest in the promised land (His salvation) because they were not believers.

C. The **pattern** of the New Testament day of worship. Though our ultimate rest is in Jesus Christ, we still rest one day out of seven. It is not called the Sabbath per se in the New Testament, but simply the Lord’s Day (**Revelation 1:10**). The early believers gathered on the first day of the week (**Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2**).

There is coming a day when we will once again worship God perfectly. We have a record of the saints in heaven singing in **Revelation 4:11**, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

We ought to order our lives around the Lord’s Day, which in the New Testament is Sunday, because Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday.

Practical Helps:

1. Get good rest Saturday night.
2. Come ready to worship the Lord.
3. Put aside the “I Dare You to Bless Me” attitude!
4. Store up on the Lord’s Day as a Market Day for the rest of the week.

II. **The second order of creation is the Life God gave Man to Enjoy.** Let’s take a look back at Man’s Creation.

Genesis 2:4-7, “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature”.

A. Life is a Gift from God. We often take life for granted, but all that we have is a gift from God. For the first five days, God filled the earth with gifts for man, and then on the sixth day, God gave man the greatest gift he could have—the gift of life. Contrary to popular science, human beings were not an accident in the universe. We are the unique creation by of the infinite God. In God “we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

B. Because Life is a Gift from God, Life is Precious. There is nothing more valuable on the face of the earth than human life. When an earthquake topples massive cities to the ground, we do not mourn the buildings very much. We go searching... for what? Gold, silver, jewels? No, those things are worthless compared to human life. We go searching for souls in danger! And we mourn and are devastated by the loss of any human life.

1. Take a moment right now and thank God for His gift of life to you. Consider the miracle of sight, breathing, walking, thinking. Now let your heart fill up with gratitude for God’s gift of life.
2. Consider the miracle of your life. God created you for Himself. God thinks upon His creation. He thinks upon you personally. Take a look at **Psalm 139:13-17**, “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!”
3. Paul said, “I am what I am by the grace of God”. God made us different from all other people, uniquely fashioning us for His own purposes. We have nothing to boast about. It’s all God’s gift of life to us. Remember the words of Paul in **1 Corinthians 4:7**, “For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”

III. **The third order of creation is the Work in the Garden God gave Man to Enjoy.**

Consider the majestic mountains and the rolling hills and the golden plains of our earth. God made everything for us to enjoy—to show us how good and how great God is.

Genesis 2:8, “And the LORD God planted a garden in **Eden**, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.” The name Eden means “Delight”. To live and work in this garden was a delight!

Two Trees

What we are going to find are TWO trees in the Garden of Eden. The tree of life (verse 9) and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (verse 17). One was a tree of life, and the other a tree of death. One tree represented loving submission and dependence toward God and brought life. The other represented rebellion and brought the curse of death.

- A. The Joy of **Serving God**. God put Adam in the garden to enjoy it and to serve God by cultivating it.

Verses 9-15, “And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** 10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. 11 The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. 14 And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. 15 **The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**”

There is nothing greater that you can do than to use your life to serve God in loving submission. Through Jesus Christ we have obtained rights once again to the tree of life.

Revelation 2:7, “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Revelation 22:14, “Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”

In Christ, God has something for all of us to do for His glory. Though we cannot get rid of all the pains of this life, we can have the joy that Adam had in the Garden of Eden serving God with His work. God created work before the fall. To serve God and do His bidding is the most fulfilling task we can do. We are all called to turn our work into worship. Work should be a joy to all of us!

1. Do you have a good attitude about work? Do you worship God through your occupation?
2. Though **Ephesians 6:5-9** is directed to those in human slavery, I think we can apply these verses to all of our work: “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord

and not to man, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free”

B. The Joy of **Freedom**. We were given Paradise. And in all this Paradise, man had the gift of freedom. He could choose for God or against God. There was only one rule that Adam and Eve had to keep in order for them to keep their friendship with God.

Genesis 2:16-17, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.””

Sadly, Adam and Eve and all of us here today have used our freedom and chosen wrongly. We have all freely chosen to disobey God.

But now I want to point you to another Garden. Jesus sweat drops of blood as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

1. Cursed with the Sweat of Toil

Also as part of the curse, Adam was told that "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread" (Gen. 3:19). But because of the Garden of Gethsemane and the Hill of Calvary, there is no more toil for us! Jesus paid it all! All to Him I owe!

2. The Earth Cursed with Thorns

Because of sin, the ground was cursed with thorns.

But now we as Christians, when we think of thorns, we think of the Crown of thorns put on Jesus. Jesus had a crude crown of thorns pressed onto His head and then the soldiers beat him with the reed they had placed in his hand.

3. Barred from the Tree of Life

Adam and Eve were barred from the Garden of Eden so that they could not eat from the "tree of life" and live forever.

Jesus died on a "tree" so that WE could live forever.

4. Barred from the Garden with two Flaming Cherubim

Two cherubim with flaming swords were placed to guard the way to the tree of life so that Adam and Eve could not enter.

When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple that kept people from entering the place where God dwells was torn in two from top to bottom. We can now "with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:16).

5. Taking and Eating the Forbidden

Adam and Eve "took and ate" what was forbidden.

Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "**Take, eat; this is my body.**" (Matt. 26:26 ESV)

IV. Lastly, we look at the final order of creation: God gave Marriage for Man to Enjoy.

Marriage is under attack in our country. For the first time in history, we are having to define what a marriage and a family is. Our culture is crumbling because of the destruction of the family. We all need a reminder that when you reject God's way, chaos and sorrow and confusion and misery follow. We have rejected God's way. Let's see that God's way is the best way.

A. Consider the **Divine Author** of marriage.

Genesis 2:18, "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

The wife is a helper that fits the man. God created most men so that they are not

We read in **verse 21**, "So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 **Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**". Marriage is God's idea. God was the one who gave the first bride away to the first man Adam. The first marriage occurred with God Himself officiating. He pronounced them man and wife. He said this man and this wife are one flesh!

B. The **Definition** of Marriage was given at Creation. Now I want you to notice something so simple. **Genesis 2:24** gives us the definition of marriage. It is the verse that Jesus quoted in Mark 10. God said in **Genesis 2:24**, "**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**" God took woman from the flesh of man and literally spoke marriage into existence. It is in this verse that God pronounced Adam and Eve man and wife.

***One man plus one woman joined together before
God for life equals one marriage.***

This almost doesn't need to be said, it is so obvious, but when God wanted to bring *man* into a marital relationship, He created a *woman*, He did not create another man, or two women, or anything else. He created man and woman and pronounced them man and wife for life! I know this is an elementary thing, but

when people reject God, they become “vain in their imaginations” and their “foolish heart” becomes “darkened” (Romans 1:21).

God is the Author of the marriage covenant. He instituted it. It was made in Paradise, and He defined it. As creatures on this earth we do not need to come up with our own definition of marriage. God has already given us a definition of marriage.

God says in **Mark 10:9** “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” What God has put together, we do not need to tear down and redefine! Yet our country is tearing the fabric of our society apart.

- C. Let’s consider the **Destruction** of Marriage in our country. No one can go against that which God designed in perfect wisdom without serious consequences.

God’s Law is a foundation for humanity. How long would your house stand if you started jack hammering the foundation? The reason marriage is under attack in our country is because of a rejection of God and His Word. The world is taking a jack hammer to the foundation of this country, and they are destroying it. The solid rock of God’s revelation of marriage is being torn apart and destroyed. In its place is the sinking sand of adultery, divorce, co-habitation, promiscuity of every kind, homosexuality, and every perversion known to man.

I am not overstating what I am about to say. I have thought about it and say it in all seriousness. I believe America is in a worse state than Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom had no Bible, but we as a country have gone the way of Sodom and Gomorrah with a Bible in front of our eyes.

God’s Word is a fortress and a protection for any society. When you go against God’s Word in a society, the society falls apart. God’s Law must rule us or we will all fall apart. What happens when you reject God’s Law? Romans 1 tells us **Romans 1:21**, “when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

1. God tells us that he hates **Divorce** (**Malachi 2:16**).

God hates divorce. We used to have God’s law ruling us in this country. It used to be extremely difficult to divorce in our country, but now we have “no fault divorce”. In times past, before a person were granted a divorce, they had to show harm in the marriage through adultery or some other scandalous activity.

Romans 7:2-3, “Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man

while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.”

2. God calls **Homosexuality** an abomination. God created male and female. A woman is different than a man, and God wants us to retain those differences.
 - a. Homosexuality is a sign of a reprobate mind. When a society wholly rejects God, and His Law, we have a description in Romans 1 of the wholesale unraveling and destruction of society. Consider the frightening description that resembles American society in **Romans 1:21-28**, “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done”.
3. God hates **Adultery**. Not so long ago, extramarital affairs were scandalous. Today, they're viewed as the norm. **Hebrews 13:4**, “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the **marriage bed** [KOITUS – marital intimacy] be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

Those who pervert the purity of intimacy reserved only for marriage will be judged. Some unmarried people will say, well I love so and so, so I am going to sleep with them. That is not love! That is like putting a gun to their soul and pulling the trigger. If you love someone, then do all that you can to keep them pure!

4. **Co-habitation** is NOT marriage. **Hebrews 13:4**, “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the **marriage bed** [KOITUS – marital intimacy] be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” This verse shows that relations outside of marriage does not constitute a marriage. Those who co-habitate are given a name by God. They are called “sexually immoral”. And those who break the marriage relationship once they are married are called “adulterous” in this verse and God will judge them both. So “shacking up” is not marriage. You may have a ring and a date, but until

you say “I do” you are not married, and you have no right to defile what God has reserved for marriage alone.

5. God also has a list of **abominations** in **Leviticus 18** including incest, homosexuality, and bestiality. These are the sins of the pagan nations. Yet it seems what God says is an abomination, our country wants to esteem.

God hates adultery, divorce, fornication, and homosexuality. This world esteems them and wants to call them “normal”. May hold fast to God’s Word and be faithful and pure. As the world seeks to destroy marriage, let us seek to defend it! We can do that by understanding God’s design for marriage.

- D. God’s **Design** for marriage. This society has their own ideas of what marriage is for. All the deviations from marriage seems right in their eyes. You see it doesn’t matter what is right in my eyes or your eyes. That is humanism. What matters is what is right and pure in God’s eyes. What He says is truth. So what is God’s design for marriage.

1. Marriage is for **procreation**. We read in **Genesis 1:27-28**, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it””. God wants us to raise up a godly seed. **Malachi 2:15** asks why God instituted marriage. He asks, “And what was the one God seeking?” The answer is “Godly offspring.” Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.” He’s speaking of divorce. Don’t divorce, because when you do that, you are doing great damage to your ability to raise up a godly seed. You are sowing the seeds of destruction to the children’s soul.

You do not have that in any other relationships outside of marriage. You need a husband and a wife. You cannot raise up children in sodomite relationships. God would have a godly man and a godly woman raise a child. It is ungodly to bring a child into this world without a father. It is immoral. It is going to make life extremely difficult at times for your children.

2. Marriage is for **partnership** or companionship. That’s why God says in **Genesis 2:18**, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” A wife is more than just a partner for the purpose of having children; she is a partner for the purpose of companionship. If you are married, then your best friend in all the world ought to be your spouse.
3. Marriage is also for **pleasure**. After sin and the fall of man, God still called it **good and honorable**. **Hebrews 13:4**, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed [KOITUS] undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Any other view is a sinful view. Relations in marriage are just as holy as

praying, reading the Bible, preparing a message, preaching, tithing, praying with someone about his soul, teaching a Sunday school class.

Proverbs 5:18-19 tell us that the husband is to “rejoice with the wife of thy youth” He is to be satisfied with her “at all times”. Solomon says to the husband, “be thou ravished always with her love.” A husband is to be overwhelmed with the friendship and intimacy of his wife.

Earlier in this chapter of **Proverbs** (in **verse 15**), Solomon says, “Drink waters out of your own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.” The husband and wife are to be satisfied with one another and no one else.

Paul further gives us further understanding in **1 Corinthians 7:3-5**, “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” Incontinency is uncontrolled intimate desire reserved for marriage. One way that husbands and wives can keep marriage strong in culture is by making sure they love and serve their spouse in the marital intimacy.

4. Marriage is for **purity**. Most people are wired for marriage. If you sense the need to be married, and you are not yet married, then you will run into problems. 1 Corinthians 7 is Paul’s chapter on singleness as you know. Paul says in **1 Corinthians 7:1-2**, “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 **But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.**” He goes on to say in **verse 9** that he wishes every one were single like him, but if you cannot contain your self, it is BETTER to be married. Why? Because “it is better to marry than to burn” (**verse 9**).
5. Marriage is for **protection**. **1 Peter 3:7**, “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” Marriage is given by God for the man to protect the wife. Spend time with her. Take care of the home. Repair the house. Also repair any tears in your relationship with your wife. If you are able, you ought to give your wife the privilege of being at home. Don’t send her out to work. Let her main responsibility be the home! Let her fulfill the biblical title that she has as a “keeper of the home”. Protect her from this world.

Illustration: On that note, let me tell you that my mother left my father after she had her own job for a while. Her main focus of the home was replaced with another focus. It wasn't long before she had committed adultery and was divorcing my dad. The safest place for a woman is in the home under the protection of her husband. Your wife is the weaker vessel. Marriage is for protection.

6. Marriage is ultimately a **picture** of Christ and His Bride. Marriage is patterned after Christ's covenant commitment to His church. Christ thought of himself as the Bridegroom coming for his bride, the true people of God (Matthew 9:15; 25:1ff; John 3:29). Jesus said in Matthew 25, that He is coming again as a Bridegroom for His Bride, and His church needs to be pure and ready at all times.

Look over at **Ephesians 5:25-32**, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." We leave our present circumstances in the world and cleave to Christ. We are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh.

I won't expound too much on this since we will cover this on Sunday. But every married person here tonight ought to understand the gravity of your marriage relationship. It exists to proclaim the Gospel that the Bridegroom pursues a Bride and marries her! You become one as we become one with Christ.

Conclusion: We need to guard marriage today. How do we do that?

1. If you are single, keep yourself pure. Avoid fornication. Avoid pornography or anything that would cause you to lust. That means you are going to have to avoid most magazines, because this world uses immorality to sell products. "Flee youthful lusts".
2. If you are married, keep yourself pure, and STAY MARRIED!! Devote yourself to your spouse. Do not defraud one another. Keep yourself pure within the marriage. Be careful of the media. Be careful of the many relationships that can become very dangerous at work. If you leave your marriage, you are leaving God's way. Destruction and misery follow when

that happens. Marriage God's way is the most satisfying and enjoyable things in this temporary life we have.

Mark 10:9 “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate”