**Sermon Notes**

**“Renewed Marriage”**

Genesis 2:2-25

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens— 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, 6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground— 7 the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

…

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” 18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

**The Biblical Story: Creation, Fall, Redemption**

**Creation: Marriage is a good gift from God**

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage should be honored by all”

**Fall: Marriage is sin-full**

1. The curse of sin has corrupted our understanding of the *purpose* of marriage.
2. The curse of sin has corrupted our *practice* within marriage.

**Redemption: Marriage can be redeemed**

1. New posture (Ephesians 5:21)
2. New practices (Colossians 3)
3. New purpose (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What idea(s) were the most personally impactful for you from this message? Why?

1. Why do you think it is so difficult for many people to accept the idea that marriage is a good gift? Do you think Christians have helped challenge this way of thinking or helped create it?

3. Does understanding the nature of a Covenant change how you would respond to someone who said, “I don’t need to get married because it’s just a piece of paper”?

4. “Marriage should be honoured by all.” Do you think Christians do a good job of obeying this command?

5. “The purpose of marriage is my personal satisfaction and fulfillment.” Where do you see this way of thinking lived out within our society? What are the results?

6. What do you think it would like look within a marriage if two people were submitted to one another (Ephesians 5:21)?

7. What practices within your marriage need to be challenged? What habits need to be confessed and repented of?