

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:27

The Economy of the Kingdom

One Plus One Equals One – Genesis 1 – God's Intention

I loved the subject of math.

Some people would strongly disagree with me, but I enjoyed math class. It seemed like there were always rules and constants. Language has rules, but then there are exceptions to the rules, and then exceptions to those exceptions. Literature was just random, but math was always the same.

Or at least, that's what I thought.

In God's economy, there is one time where $1+1=1$. How is this possible? Marriage.

Describe how marriage is $1+1=1$.

It is our misunderstanding of this equation that affects our ability and potential to have a great marriage.

How would you explain how society views marriage?

Our society sees marriage as $1+1=2$ which would be a normal assumption, if society created marriage. It didn't. Our society sees marriage as the joining of forces or the coming together of two people into one family unit. At times the word marriage is used of the joining of things other than a man and a woman. They might say the marriage of poetry and painting or of words and music, but this confuses what marriage is by God's definition.

In the case of words and music, the two can always be separated again with little or no problem. This is not true of a husband and wife.

In math, the lowest whole positive number is 1. Once you move past 1, you move into fractions or negative numbers. What happens when you try to separate the number 1? You are left with pieces and parts and no whole number. You can separate 2 or 5 or 1,230 and still have whole numbers, but 1 cannot be separated into different whole numbers.

How does this understanding carry into marriage?

I can understand how this might be confusing so let's take a look at Genesis 1 where God created marriage and see how He does the math.

"The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man 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.'" Genesis 2:22-23

"I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not fulfilled the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts-- the officials of Judah and the officials of Jerusalem, the court officers and the priests and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf-- I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their dead bodies will be food for the birds of the sky and the beasts of the earth." Jeremiah 34:18-20

In verses, 26-30 we see the abbreviated account of the creation of mankind. This may be the short story, but the content is very telling. Moses writes that God created man in His own image. Our first inclination is to think gender, but the word "man" is reference to mankind. God says, "Let Us make man in our image." This is the first time that there is a discussion about creation. Before it was merely statements, but here the God-head is talking.

In the same passage we find that God made them, male and female, in His image. Man and woman in marriage display the image of God. This oneness is further evidenced when God tells them to rule over everything. Did you catch it? God told the man and woman to rule together. It was not just a command given to the man. Herein lies oneness.

As if that is not enough, chapter two is the extended version of the creation of man. Moses comes back to the creation of man to give more detail to what took place. God helped man to know that he was not complete, that he needed a helper.

Men, just so you know, we needed help from the beginning!

God then takes a rib from the man and creates the woman. The man wakes up and likes what he sees and then speaks poetry, trying to be romantic, no doubt. Moses then gives commentary and explains how the man and woman become one. The term used here for one is singular. There is no sense of a plural. $1+1=1$

Why do you think God took such care in making this clear?

You may be wondering why I am going through such great lengths to establish the fact that in marriage $1+1=1$. Remember, our society claims that marriage is not that big of a deal since it is still two people. Divorce is an epidemic that continues to reach into every home. We are continually bombarded with messages that claim marriage is not a big commitment. God would say otherwise.

Many of your movies that include divorce show how it was a mistake to get married and that everyone can admit the mistake and try someone else out. No hard feelings.

How would you define covenant?

God sees it as a binding relationship for life. In fact, the Old Testament gives us an understanding of the importance of covenant. When two people would make a covenant with each other they would take a goat or lamb and slay it. They would then separate the beast in half, placing one half to the side and the other opposite to it. The two parties would then walk through the halved animal. This act proclaimed, "May we be like this animal torn in half if we break this covenant." See Genesis 15 as this explains the covenant between God and Abram.

“...and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Matthew 19:5-6

Moses says, “They shall become one flesh!” To try to separate the one flesh means to tear it in half.

How does this perspective of covenant differ from the world?

Jesus confirmed Moses’ words in Matthew 19:4-6. He restated that the man and woman become one flesh, but then gave further commentary that God put them together and no one should seek to separate them. These are solemn and binding words.

So $1+1=1$.

As we embrace this understanding it puts marriage into a whole new and different place than what the world would place it.

If marriage is not taken in the context of Genesis 1, what does that allow the world to do with marriage?

In short, the world can make marriage whatever it wants. It can define it in a thousand different ways to suit its desires. Paul explains this in Romans 1:21-32. It is a sad commentary of the world. The world did not like what God had to offer, so it redefined everything to fit its lustful depraved desires.

So what is God’s intention for marriage?

Genesis 1:27 & 2:24 – One man with one woman made into one flesh for life.
 $1+1=1$

Anything else is not what God intended. I cannot speak for you, but I am not about to tell the Creator of the world and the sustainer of all life that he made a mistake in this area. In fact, our world has proven that the way it redefined marriage has been disastrous.

In regards to marriage, $1+1=1$ is the right answer. Anything else is wrong.

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
