**R891 Rumination for Feb. 20, 2022**

The **T**heme: **In The Way** of **L**ove [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext:*I being* ***in the way****, the* ***L****ORD* ***L****ed me to the house of my master's brethren.* Gen. 24:27

The **T**hots:

Today, each **P**arty seeks to **P**ick the **P**artner of his/her choice for Marriage. In yesteryears the **P**artner would **P**robably be **P**icked by **P**arents. Whether in yesteryears or this year, it is best that the two **P**arties seek the **C**hoice and Sanction of God, the Father. However, to do so one must abide by His **C**onditions.

**C**onsider therefore the **E**pisode of **E**liezer seeking a Bride for his master with the help of God – Gen. 24:27

*And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth:* ***I being in the way, the LORD led me*** *to the house of my master's brethren.*

1. **The Principles of Marriage:** **Both Parties must be *In The Way***, i.e. from *the house of my master's brethren*.
	* + 1. For now, both must be **In** Jesus. He is the **W**ay – *Jesus saith…I am* ***the******Way****…* Jn. 14:6 also see #3
2. Both must be **In**structed In the **W**ord concerning the **W**ays of the Lord. Acts 18:25, 26

Apollos, *was instructed in the way of the Lord;*

*Aquila and Priscilla…took him unto them, and expounded unto him the Way of God more perfectly.*

1. Both must be ready to obey the **W**ord and **W**ill of God. II Cor. 6:14, HCSB

*Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?*

* *"I being in the way [of obedience], the Lord led me" (Genesis 24:27). Walk where God wants you to walk, and you will meet that person you are to marry, if God so wills that you are to marry. Walk disobediently and providence will not be on your side to meet the right person. Walking disobediently can cause you to meet the wrong one and make a mistake that will plague you the rest of your life.*

Analytical Bible Expositor - Genesis.

1. **The Practice in Marriage:** While the **P**ractice of **C**hoosing a Bride might be different in yesteryears,

 the **P**rinciples governing the **C**hoice of the Bride remain the same for today. See #A above,

1. The **C**lear Instruction: *I will make thee swear by the LORD…that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:* Gen. 24:3 cf. II Cor. 6:14
2. Its **C**onfirmation – the woman must be willing to follow, to go to the man, to submit to him –

*"Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again... If the woman will not be willing to follow thee …only bring not my son thither again"* Gen. 24:6-8 cf. Eph. 5:22, 24; 5:25, 28

1. The **C**ircumstance for **C**onfirmation of God’s **C**hoice of the Bride-to-Be – her **C**onsent to follow: 24:14
2. *And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that Thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.*
3. Cf. The **C**ustom in Ruth’s **C**onfirmation of Boaz – he was willing to **L**ove and **L**ead. Ruth 3:4

*…thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.*

* The above Relationships illustrate the Bride of **C**hrist’s (the **C**hurch’s) **S**ubmission to His Headship. Cf. #C.2
1. Also **C**onsider the **C**haracter of the Bride-to-be*:*
2. **R**ebekah *- The damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her:* Gen. 24:16
3. Cf. **R**uth – *for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*  Ruth. 3:11
4. **The Purpose and Picture of Marriage: (A Reminder)**
5. **The Original Purpose of Marriage: Gen. 2**
6. The **P**artner was to be a **M**ate for **M**an: Gen. 2:18

*The LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

1. The **P**artner was a **P**art of Man: Gen. 2:22-23

*The rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

1. The **P**artner was **P**art and **P**arcel of Man: Gen. 2:23

*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.*

1. The **P**artnership was to **P**reclude all other relationships for both to be One.: Gen. 2:24

*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:*

*and they shall be one flesh.*

1. **The Ornate Picture of Marriage:** Eph. 5:21-33
2. *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands,* ***as*** *unto the Lord.* 5:22
3. *Husbands, love your wives, even* ***as*** *Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.* 5:25 cf. 32
* **Con.:** *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so* ***L****ove his own wife* ***as*** *himself,*

*and* ***L****et the wife see that she respects her husband.* 5:33, NKJV

1. **The Pre-eminence of His Majesty at His Table:** Song of Songs 1:12 *While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof*

This morning the Head of the Church, the Lord and King Himself sits at the head of the Table,

Let us His Bride come with the fragrance of her spikenard to worship Him.

*O worship the King, all glorious above,*

 *O gratefully sing His power and His love.* Ro­bert Grant

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 891**

1. Last Feb. 14, was Valentine’s Day. Sentimental Love was in the air. Could it ever be the basis and Structure of Scriptural Marriage? Contrast a Viewpoint on Modern Marriage extracted from…

<https://ifstudies.org/blog/modern-marriage-individualistic-interdependent#:~:text=spouses%20should%20be%20more%20likely,separate%20family%20names%3B%20and%20not>

**Modern Marriage: Individualistic or Interdependent?**

*It is commonly remarked that society in general and marriage in particular are growing more individualistic. We’re less likely to join organizations, to have several close friends we can trust, to conceive of marriage as a lifelong partnership. We’re growing more isolated (it is said), and we see even marriage, which should be an intimate and interdependent relationship, as only a vehicle for personal fulfilment. Far from sharing their daily lives, moreover, spouses are now “alone together.”*

*In a paper just published in the Journal of Family Theory & Review, Carrie Yodanis and Sean Lauer push back against this idea. Although some prominent family scholars share the widely held view that marriage has grown less institutionalized and more individualistic, measures of how married couples actually live suggest that rather than maintaining separate, autonomous lives, they continue to form interdependent partnerships.*

*If couples are living individualistically, Yodanis and Lauer write, spouses should be more likely to do things like live apart; keep their resources separate, including having separate bank accounts; maintain separate social networks; opt not to have children with each other; maintain independent rather than interdependent paid work and caring roles; have separate family names; and not consider their marriage a permanent relationship… Such behaviours would make it possible for spouses to maintain independence, personal freedom, and a unique identity that is separate from their spouse. This would be important for fulfilling individual goals and needs while in the relationship, but it also makes it easier to leave the relationship if and when desired.*

Contrast the above viewpoint on modern marriage with the established principles and practices that the Bible advocates what a biblical Christian marriage should be as described in Ephesians 5:

**Ephesians 5:22-33 (NRSV)**
***Wives****, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which He is the Savior.
Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.****Husbands****, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,
so as to present the church to Himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.
In the same way,* ***husbands*** *should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of His body.
"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."
This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.
Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.*

Which viewpoint would you subscribe to in relation to your own marriage or the marriage you intend to enter into in the future? **REFLECT.**

1. What do you think are the main causes of the high rates of divorces among couples today?

Try to list them and avoid them in your relationship. **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Is Marriage the* ***Way*** *for a* ***L****ife-****L****ong* ***P****artnership of* ***L****ove*

 *or is it a* ***Way*** *to* ***P****lacate one’s* ***L****usts and* ***P****leasures in* ***L****ife?*