

Lesson 1: Back to the Beginning

Intro: The _____ vs. our _____

Overarching Story (Meta-narrative of Scripture)

_____ => Fall => _____ => Restoration

Here is the overarching plan:

God's design => corruption by sin (_____) => redemption in Christ (_____)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ 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, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

GENESIS 1:26-28¹

Origin stories matter.

Marduk

Big Bang

Genesis

- Humanity was made in God's "*image and likeness*."
- This set people apart from the rest of creation.
- Adam & Eve were designed, as His image, to _____ Him to the rest of creation.
- ANE: cities were filled with _____ of gods to remind people whom they serve.

¹ Unless otherwise noted the Scripture texts are from the ESV.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- We are _____ images, _____ to the rest of creation about the existence and character of God.
- ANE: in most cultures only the _____ were made in gods' images. Populace served his agenda.
- Scripture: _____ people are made in God's image.

Made Equal in Dignity

- This means that _____ men and women are made in His image.
- Men & women have equal _____, worth and _____ before God.
- Authority does not mean _____ (_____ movement).
- Equality does not mean _____.
- We must _____ those God-given differences.
- In marriage we must _____ our spouse is made in God's image, just like us.
- **Honor** their dignity! _____ the ways they are like God & remind you of God.
- **Protect** their dignity!
- **Enhance** their dignity! Help them _____ & _____ w/in an environment of love and acceptance.

Mission: Fill the Earth w/His Image

- God blesses or _____ them: "*be fruitful and multiply.*"
- One _____ of marriage is to have children as God empowers & _____.
- **Use** _____: financial and personal (emotional & spiritual) _____ are real.
- The _____ has brought _____ to many. The issue is more a willingness.
- God's intention is to fill the world with His presence via the image of God.

¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. **Malachi 2**

- Marriage is not simply about having children, but _____ them too.
- It takes _____ people of _____ sexes to have a child.
- Ideally it takes two people of different sexes to _____ a child.
- Children need to learn about both _____ and _____ from their parents.
- Men teach children how _____ treat _____ by how they treat their wives.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- Women teach children how _____ treat _____ by how they treat their husbands.
- You may have learned the _____ thing from your parents!

Mission: To Expand His Rule

- The “*image*” is a _____.
- “*Likeness*” is about being a _____.
- People are God’s ambassadors to the rest of creation; we _____ and _____ for God.
- This mission is revealed in “*subdue and rule.*”
- “*Subdue*” implies _____, making someone or something to serve you.
- Adam was His _____ - _____: ruling as king of creation under God’s authority.
- ANE: kings, made in the image of their god, subdued and ruled. People were _____ to accomplish that.
- Moses wanted Israel to know they were all _____ and _____.
- Marriage, thru child bearing & rearing, fills the earth with His presence & authority.
- In a fallen world _____ seeks to expand God’s rule by restoring people to relationship w/God.
- You are also God’s ambassador to your _____; and they are His to you.
- We have both _____ in Christ and _____ in Adam.
- God subdues, or _____ you, thru the ministry of your spouse.

Dignity ← Marriage → Depravity

- A healthy marriage requires a _____ view of yourself and your spouse.
- Overemphasize their dignity => idealize or _____.
- Overemphasize your dignity => _____, narcissism.
- Overemphasize their depravity => _____
- Overemphasize our depravity => it’s all my _____.

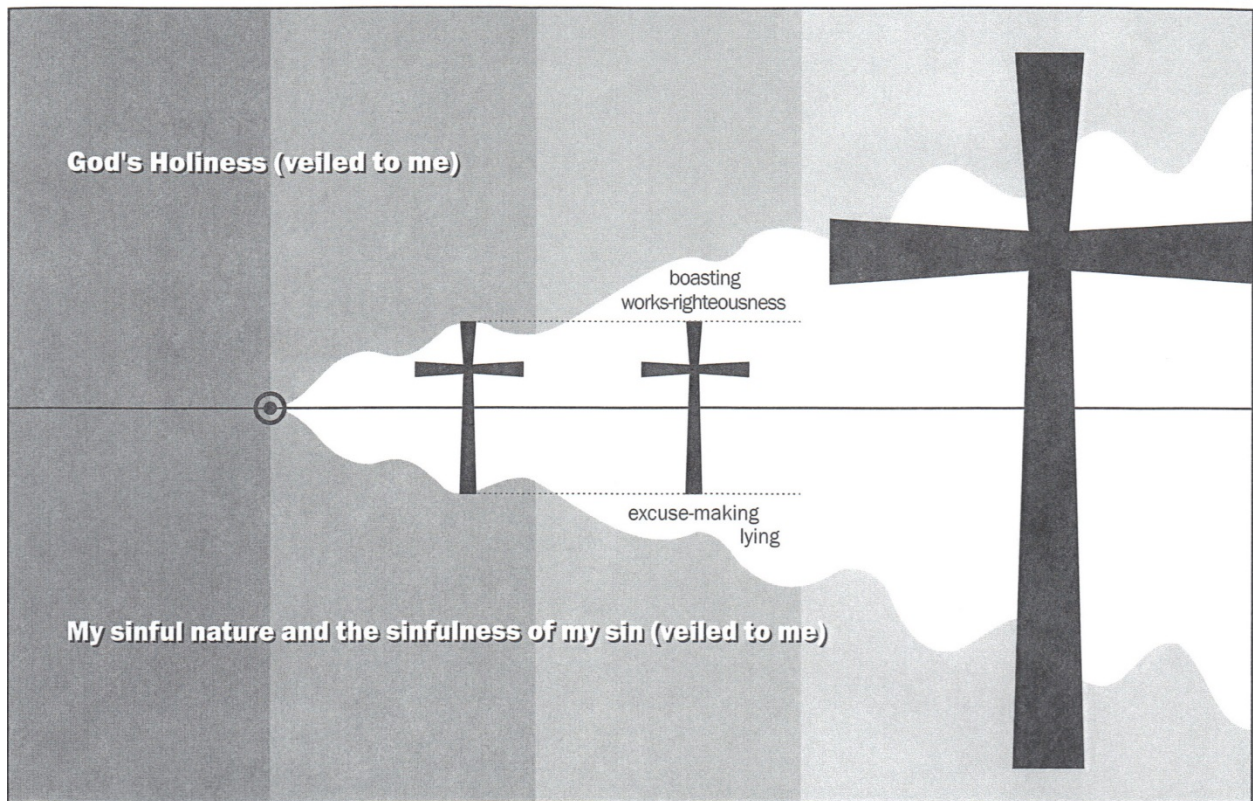
How the Gospel Fits

- The gospel helps us maintain the balance of _____ & _____.
- We see that our sins can be _____. We are enabled to _____ our spouse for theirs.
- As time passes you _____ more of your spouses sin (and yours).

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- We also have a new _____ in Christ, a _____ dignity.
- We _____ the world thru the gospel, calling our kids and others to faith & repentance.
- If we are married, our married lives are the primary arena for fulfilling God’s mission.

► The Cross Chart



1

Before Conversion
The holiness of God, my sinful nature, and the sinfulness of my sin are veiled to me.

2

After Conversion
I have a limited, fluctuating, but growing awareness of both God's holiness and my sinfulness.

3

Adjusting the Record
I resort to dishonesty and performance to bridge the gap when my belief in the gospel does not keep pace with what I know of God's holiness and my sin.

4

Boasting in the Cross!
As I daily believe the gospel, the cross bridges the gap; I rest in my identity in Christ and his righteousness, which enables me to own up to God's holiness and my sinfulness without trying to adjust the record. Now, by faith, I am empowered and freed up to love God and my neighbor.

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