TITLE: **SIN'S DESTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE**
TEXT: **GENESIS 3:7, 16**

INTRO: Review: God's Design for Marriage (Gen. 2:18-25)

I. God designed marriage to satisfy needs (v. 18-20)

A. Man needed a companion (v. 18a)
B. Man needed a completer (v. 18b-20)

II. God designed marriage to supply oneness
(a united, close-knit relationship) (v. 21-25)

This oneness is shown by woman's origin (v. 21-22)
Adam's testimony (v. 23), and
God's plan (v. 24)

Before the fall of man:
Because there was no sin, there was no selfishness.
Because there was no sin, there was no lustfulness.
Because there was no sin, there was no fighting.

Before sin entered the world, there was never a lustful, self-centered thought.

Before the fall, there was a marvelous oneness, sharing, caring, giving (each living for the other) in a perfect utopia.

Today, whenever we see marriage portrayed on TV, etc., it is a scene of fighting, immorality (adultery, fornication, etc.).

What happened?? Why the change??

(ILLUS: viewing a happy scene when looking at wedding pictures, and a sad scene in the divorce court)

Why is the marriage relationship so difficult?

ANSWER: Sin destroyed it. (READ Gen. 3:1-7; 16)

Comments on the Temptation passage:

The Serpent bypassed the headship of the man.

He goes to the follower. The weaker vessel.

NOTE: Marriage started its downward fall when the roles were switched -
--Eve disobeyed her husband
--Adam listened to his wife

Then when sin entered the world, everything that was so perfect is now effected by the curse. That wonderful relationship that worked with no problems will now be an upward battle - that is when man tries to make it work without God's life-changing power.
Even the Christian, if he is not controlled by the Holy Spirit will not have the marriage God desires. The flesh will always be getting in the way.

PROP: <u>BEWARE OF FLESHLY TENDENCIES</u> IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Two <u>sinful tendencies</u> caused by the <u>curse of sin</u>:

I. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED <u>PHYSICAL (SEXUAL) RELATIONSHIP</u> (v. 7)

In what way were Adam and Eve's eyes opened? Did they not see each others' nakedness prior? Yes. But now a selfish self-consciousness resulted from sin.

Now sin caused a <u>preoccupation</u> (obsession) with each other's nudity. They now focused on what made them different, rather than what made them alike.

Because of the natural tendency toward lustful thoughts (obsessions over the physical; carnal), <u>I believe in modest clothing</u>. (NOTE: God, knowing man's sinful tendencies, clothed Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:21).

Satan ruins things in two ways:

1) He either puts too much attention on something (making it an <u>obsession</u> - an idol)

or 2) He alters its God-intended design (making it a <u>perversion)</u>

Today we live in a sex-mad world. Many things are geared toward sex appeal (ILLUS: TV commercials). The pornography that is flooding this country is ruining it!

God created sex (see Heb. 13:4), not Satan (he perverted it).

God designed sex to be an unselfish expression of love only for marriage (Read and explain I Cor. 7:1-5).

Sex is not only for procreation but for pleasure.

--Each partner owes due benevolence.
--To hold back is to steal ("defraud") from your mate.

Why so many problems in marriage?

1) It is forced to function under the curse because of man's sin
2) It's corrupted because of Satan's efforts to destroy it.

Gen. 4:19 - **Poligamy** Lamech had wives from A-Z - violates the principle that the two become one flesh.

Gen. 9:20-25- **Evil sexual** thoughts and words

Gen. 16:2-4 - **Adultery** by Abraham

Gen. 19:4-6 - **Homosexuality**

Gen. 34:1-2 - **Fornication** (sex apart from marriage)
Also **Rape**

Gen. 38:13-18- **Incest** (sexual relationship within a family)
Also **prostitution** (v. 24)

Gen. 29:7-12- **Evil seduction** (by Potiphar's wife)

Our society today looks on these things as virtuous.

EX: The songs today promote:
1) immorality, and

2) illusions (fantasy world of perfect love and "supersex" - yet without God)

II. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED ROLE RELATIONSHIP (V. 16)

Right from the start, God created man to be the leader of the family and woman to be the submissive helper. Adam was the head of the home from creation and Eve was the helper.

Such headship is seen by the fact that:

1) Adam was created first (I Tim. 2:11-13)

2) God named the race after the man (1:27)

3) God gave Adam responsibility to "dress and keep" the garden prior to Eve's creation (2:15-17)

4) God made Eve from Adam (I Cor. 11:8 - "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man")

5) God provided Adam with a helper (a subordinate function) (I Cor. 11:9 - "Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man")

6) God held the man responsible for the sin in the home (Gen. 3:9)

However, when sin entered the world, human nature (being under the curse) would rebel against the proper exercise of these roles. Hence, God gives (in the list of other curses) the curse on marriage.

A. IN THE FLESH, WIVES WILL DESIRE TO CONTROL THEIR HUSBANDS (V. 16B)

"Desire" - from a root word meaning to have a violent craving for something (Delitzch)

The idea of the two words "desire & ruling" together is only used by God in a

negative sense in the Bible (see Gen. 4:7).

In 4:7, God is warning Cain that sin desires to control him, but that he must conquer it!

Sin is depicted as a wild animal that is ready to pounce on Cain and have its savage craving satisfied.

NOTE 3:6 in context: Eve wanted authority that God never gave her. She ate the fruit and led her husband to also. This is the first time a woman ever led her husband.

Adam submitted to her (v. 17). He "hearkened unto" her voice. Man is to do all the leading according to the Word of God. Paul proves this point using this very incident in Genesis to do so. (I Tim. 2:11-14) ----

I Tim. 2:14 - "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

Since the fall, women seek to over-rule, usurp authority.

Manifestations of Depravity:

Women's Lib Movement
Women's rights movements
E.R.A., etc.

They are just a bunch of mixed-up females, trying to find happiness but can't.

How long will you nag, manipulate, want your own way, refuse to humbly submit to your husband? Do you really think this will bring you happiness?

B. IN THE FLESH, HUSBANDS WILL TEND TO CRUSH (OPPRESS) THEIR WIVES (V. 16C)

NOTE: Parallel -

Before the fall, Adam was a worker.
Now, after the fall, he is a laborer (v. 17)

Before the fall, Adam was leader.
Now, after the fall, he will be ruler.

Every sensible man knows he should be the leader; the problem he now has is that the woman will not always want to be led. This will tend to cause a man to be despotic, and to use his brute force to compel the weaker vessel to submit, and this is wrong! This is the way the flesh wants to fulfill a God-ordained role.

Since the fall, men seek to suppress, dominate women. Be a dictator, subdue, oppress, crush, and treat like a slave. EX: Male chauvinism.

Some "saved" men think that being the head of their home is to be some kind of a brute.

Never abuse or mistreat your wife!

Until the sin-destroying grace of the Gospel appeared through Christ, women were treated like mere properties. Woman was crushed into nothing more than a slave.

ILLUS: of certain countries where the wife must walk 8 feet behind her husband; some never communicate.

Today in America, we are seeing an opposite extreme, where men are weak, wimpy cowards who are letting their wives treat them like slaves. This reversal is also extremely sinful.

Husbands by their harsh treatment often make a wife's subordination extremely difficult (I'm not excusing insubordination, though).

And wives, by their desire to usurp the husband's role of authority, make his role as a loving leader a lot harder (either he will give up the role or abuse it)

The answer is for **both** you and your husband to surrender to God.

Whether or not your spouse does, you must!

CONCLU: The reason why many "Christian" marriages are not what they should be is because (although you want to do right) you are trying to make your marriage work by you own power and wisdom -- in the flesh.

You have adopted the world's philosophy. Our standards are different than the world's! We are salt and light. Our conversation is in Heaven. We have been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. We don't walk and talk the way the world does. And our marriages must be different!

The key is both of you being saved and Spirit-filled (See: Ephes. 5:18-22)!

When we are filled with the Spirit, every relationship is effected.

Our relationship with self - singing
Our relationship with God - thanksgiving
Our relationship with each other - submissive

"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41)

"In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18)

In the flesh, you are fighting a losing battle!

Gal. 6:8 - "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Gal. 5:16-17 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

The heart of <u>all</u> human relationships is the husband and wife relationship. So Satan is smashing this today.

Will he get your home?
Does he have it already?

It doesn't have to be this way!

Yield to the Lord today!

TITLE: **SIN'S DESTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE**
TEXT: **GENESIS 3:7, 16**

PROP: <u>BEWARE OF FLESHLY TENDENCIES</u> IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Two <u>sinful tendencies</u> caused by the <u>curse of sin</u>:

I. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED <u>PHYSICAL (SEXUAL) RELATIONSHIP</u> (V. 7)

II. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED <u>ROLE RELATIONSHIP</u> (V. 16)

A. IN THE FLESH, WIVES WILL DESIRE TO CONTROL THEIR HUSBANDS (V. 16B)

B. IN THE FLESH, HUSBANDS WILL TEND TO CRUSH (OPPRESS) THEIR WIVES (V. 16C)

CONCLU: The answer is to be saved and Spirit-filled.