

Proverbs 18:22

~ The Goodness and Glory of Marriage ~

Introduction

The Hebrew word for *glory* literally means heavy

It comes from the Hebrew word ***Kavod***—which translates to:

Glory!

Or weight!

Heaviness!

Fullness!

And so in the bible then when God *shows His glory* – He literally shows His **presence** – His **weight** – His **fullness** – His **substance**!

Now we spoke a little bit last week about the heaviness of children and the glory of parenting – but now this week we are talking about:

The glory of God in marriage!

When God created men and women in His image – He created them to reflect His glory!

This glory is seen fundamentally in our God-given genders as:

Male and female!

But it is **also seen** in our God-given roles as **Husband** and **wife**!

A husband and a wife in the covenant of marriage come together to reflect the **fullness** – the **goodness** – the weight & glory of God in marriage!

Addressed to Women

But maybe you've **never noticed** before that when reading through the book of Proverbs that when the bible speaks about the topic of marriage – God has **much more to say to women** than it does to **men**!

That is to say that:

When the bible is addressing the topic of **marriage** it **seems to appeal** predominantly to the character of women and what **women are like** in marriage – than it does to the **character of men**!

Now this is **NOT** because the bible is sexist and favours men **over and above** the character of women – **NOR is it because** the bible assumes that women need **more correction** than men actually do!

But the reason is twofold:

First Solomon is addressing his sons on finding the excellent woman

And in order to find the excellent woman – you have to know her opposite!

you have to know the **contentious woman** and her **vices**!

But **the other reason** is that the **Bible recognises** — as do the Proverbs — that a woman's **principled glory** – the place where she shines **most fully** in this world:

Is chiefly in the home

And as a homemaker!

As a woman who loves the family!

A Woman's Home

In fact, I'm told that it's only at a **few weeks' gestation** (maybe 6 or 7 weeks) – that doctors say that a tiny baby girl, **inside of** her mother's womb **already has** the early **beginning stages** of a uterus!

The early beginning stages of **what will become** the home of her **future children!**

A woman is **quite literally** someone who is made with:

A home **inside of her!**

In fact someone once said that:

*The **very first home** everyone in this room **ever lived-in** was the home of their mother's womb!*

A woman simply is a homemaker!

She is made with a home inside of her!

Single

This **says nothing** against those who **by gifting** or **by providence** are unmarried or cannot bear children...

In other words just because you're **NOT** married or cannot have children doesn't make your glory **as a woman** any less true or substantial!

Because we're talking about the general pattern of the world – the general way/ the way it normally goes and the way that God intends for it to **normally go** is that:

A woman's principled glory and her contribution to the Kingdom of Christ is her making disciples in the home, and in the service of being a helper to her husband!

Now again that's NOT to say that she can't contribute to the world in other ways **outside of the home!**

It's **NOT** to say that she can **never work** outside of the home!

But **in so far as** her priority is **for her home** and the kingdom of Christ in making disciples of her children or of other children!

That is where a woman's glory shines!

This why Paul in Titus 2 says that:

Older women are to be teaching younger women what it means to be dignified, godly, submissive, and self-controlled workers of the home...

Offensive Bible

Now maybe you **don't agree** with the bible on this point – maybe you think that the bible is **outdated** – or **sexist** – or that the bible needs **far more nuance** in saying things like this to accommodate to people's feelings and opinions...

But the response the bible gives to many **modern-day critics** and the **purple haired feminists** who hate the idea of women in the home – is that:

The bible simply **does NOT care** what you think!

The bible just s does **NOT** cater to human opinions!

The bible is God's word and objective truth for the value and the glory of women and wives!

And so therefore, in the spirit all humility and meekness – I wanna say that:

Because the bible **doesn't really care** about offending human opinions – **neither do I!**

And you shouldn't either!

And I mean let's be honest – the bible was **never really popular** with non-Christians before 2026 anyway (and even in 2026) – and so why should we try to accommodate to the minds of those who are **hostile** to the things of God anyway!

And let me **also remind you** that the **first half** of the book of Proverbs deals **primarily with men** and **just how stupid** men can be when it comes to the pursuit of women!

Proverbs chapter 7 exists because men can be extremely foolish!

And so all that to say:

We need God's wisdom and counsel when it comes to the covenant of marriage – the glory of men/ the glory of women and putting this all together!

Proverbs 22

And so to do that – we're gonna begin in Proverbs 18:22 as **the launching text** for today!

Main point:

The main point that I want us to see as we come to this topic is that:

Marriage is a glorious gift that can either multiply your joy or magnify your grief!

And the choice is up to you:

What kind of a husband are you going to be?

What kind of a wife are you going to be?

If you're single what kind of spouse do you want to marry?

What kind of a spouse do you want to avoid?

Because all of these are addressed in the book of Proverbs!

And so let's begin in Proverbs 18:22 – and listen to what Solomon has to say:

*He who finds a wife finds a **good thing** and obtains favour from the LORD...*

Opening Gambit

The bible has **always spoken highly** about the covenant and the glory of marriage!

Marriage according to the bible is **NOT** just a good thing – it's **NOT** just a God thing – but it's **the best thing** for human society and civilisation to flourish – to go forth – to have dominion and to multiply!

In fact, we remember that when God created the world in **6 literal days** of speaking – there was a cadence to creation – literally **in the Hebrew** there is a rhythm that's established in the text – where it says in Genesis chapter 1 that:

*And God created this, God created this, God created this, and **it was good**... and God created this, God created this, God created this, and **it was good**... and God created this, God created this, God created this, and **it was good**...*

So there's a rhythm that's established in creation to demonstrate the goodness of creation and the wisdom of God given **from above!**

NOT Good

But then **when we get to** Genesis chapter 2 and God **zeroing in** on the creation of Adam in the Garden – we now see that that rhythm **gets broken** – the rhythm gets **drastically interrupted:**

Because all of a sudden we see that there is something in creation that God now declares as being something that is:

NOT GOOD!

Something that is **NOT** wise for man to remain in!

Notice Genesis 2:18:

*Then the LORD God said: It is **not good** that the man should be alone; so I will make a helper that is fit for him...*

God comes to the man and He communicates that humanity being in this state of isolation (or singleness) is a status that is **NOT fully completed!**

It's NOT the way that man is to remain!

Adam had a mission – Adam had an assignment – and that assignment was NOT able to be completed because Adam needed a helper that was **fit for him!**

And so God then comes to the man – puts him into a deep sleep – and then from the rib of man he creates woman – Genesis 2:21:

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ And the man said:

This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man...

Hebrew Superlative

Now many have noted and I think they're correct – that the poetry **Adam is using** here can be classified as:

A Hebrew superlative

Basically, a superlative is a way to describe *the **highest degree** of a particular thing/ or a particular object*

So in English we have superlatives for things – we say things like:

Good – better – and best!

Best is the **superlative** in that sentence!

We have big – bigger – biggest!

Great – greater – greatest!

Are you tracking with me!

Hebrew Superlative

And so in Hebrew what they would do is they would **take** a word and insert the word *of* in front of the word to **make it a superlative!**

So if it's the word big – they would say:

Big of the biggs!

Of all the bigs this is the biggest!

Great of the greats!

And you've actually seen this form of Hebrew superlative in the bible before:

Jesus Christ is the King **OF** Kings!

He is the LORD **OF** lords!

Of all the Kings & all the Lords Jesus is the King of those kings – He is the **LORD of** those lords!

He is the **highest LORD** of those lords...

One of the **most common** superlatives in the Old Testament is:

The Holy of holies!

Which is sometimes called *the **most holy place!***

Or the holiest place!

Solomon wrote:

The Song of Songs

Out of all the songs in the bible:

This is the greatest song!

The best song!

The **loveliest song** of all the songs!

Glory of the glory

And so we see what **Adam is doing** in this description of Eve – when he looks at his wife – he says:

*This at last is now bones **of all** my bones!*

*This is Flesh **of all** my flesh!*

It implies that there is **nothing greater!**

Nothing better!

Nothing above this object of his earthly delight!

Adam delights in his wife as he delighted in God because Adam was trying to express that:

Eve was the very **best version** of him!

She makes her husband shine

The way that Paul says it in 1st Corinthians 11 is that:

Woman is the glory of man

And since Paul has already stated that:

Man is the glory of God!

What Paul is saying is that:

Woman is the glory of the glory

If you think of glory as **that which radiates & emanates** – you see that:

Woman is the crown of all creation!

If humanity is the pinnacle of creation – then the woman is the crown **of that pinnacle!**

She is his glory!

She is literally:

Glory glorified!

Proverbs 12

Or the way that **Proverbs** puts this in Proverbs chapter 12 – is to say:

*An excellent wife is **the crown of her husband...***

That's in Proverbs 12:4:

*An excellent wife is **the crown of her husband**, but she who brings shame is like rottenness to his bones...*

So basically this Proverb is telling us that:

*Every single wife can have a **profoundly powerful** effect on a husband's soul either for good or for evil*

In other words:

Even the **strongest men** in the world can be **eaten away** from the inside out because of a wife who is quarrelsome to the core – she is like cancer to his bones...

She is like bone cancer!

That eats away his very existence and affects every part of his entire life!

But **at the same time** even the **weakest man** in the world (the most futile little man) can walk **like a king** if his wife is excellent!

If she is a Proverbs 31 woman!

That's the effect that women have on the hearts and homes of men!

Now just so you know I will be preaching on Proverbs 31 as the final sermon in this series – so women please hold out till then... we don't have too many more sermons to go in Proverbs!

But if you're curious what a Proverbs 31 wife is like – just go home today after the service and look at all of the qualities that make up this excellent wife – Just a few descriptors of this excellent woman **she is:**

*Trustworthy – Steadfast – Diligent – Resourceful – Hardworking – Prudent – She's thoughtful – Perceptive – Skilled – Kind – Caring – Generous – Elegant – Industrious – Strong – Dignified – Courageous – Wise – Godly – Respected – Loved – Admired – Praiseworthy – God-fearing and **above all** you can see the work of her hands...*

She labours for the heart of her home!

Everything she does is geared toward homemaking!

She is others centred – she's **NOT self-centred**; she's other's centred!

And because of **her conduct – her beauty – her praise** – because of **her excellence:**

She makes her husband shine!

She makes his ministry – his business – his reputation amongst the elders of the city better!

Like the **crown** of a king living in Israel – wives have a **profoundly powerful effect** on their husband's lives!

The Quarrelsome wife

But of course – the opposite is also true – the opposite is also valid –wives can have a **powerfully profound effect** on their husband's lives for good and also:

For evil

Proverbs 21:19:

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman in the home...

In other words:

A contentious woman will drive a man into the **harsh/bitter elements** of a howling wilderness – with **snakes** – and **spiders** – and **scorpions** – and **wolves** – and **bears** – and **lions - & fierce predators** – a lack of resources – with no food – no water – no shelter – 40 degree heat...

And solomon says:

Better to be in that kind of environment **than to live in a house** with a bitter/nagging/ and contentious woman!

Or **at best** maybe **NOT** in the middle of a howling desert – but as Proverbs 21 verse 9 tells us:

Better to live in the corner of a housetop than in a house with a quarrelsome wife...

So again rooftops in these days were flat/open and exposed to the elements – there was no shade – no shelter – and no protection from the weather!

And it's better to live up there than in a comfy bed with a woman whose combative!

Why because Proverbs 27:15 says that:

A quarrelsome wife and a constant drip are both alike!

There is no difference between that constant:

Drip...Drip...Drip...Drip...Drip...day after day after day after day... and a wife that is like that to her husband...

Which doesn't sound **too bad** at first... until you realize that if you get enough water to drip consistently for a **long enough period of time** – on one location – you could potentially carve out something as big as:

The Grand Canyon!

That's how painful it is to be with a woman who doesn't fear God – who doesn't serve her home – who doesn't honour her husband – and who lives for herself!

Excellence Reversed

Now again ladies if you're sitting there wondering to yourself:

Well what kind of wife am I becoming to my husband – what effect do I have on the heart and home of my own husband – am I becoming like the bitter, wrathful, quarrelsome wife?

All you have to do is consider the Proverbs 31 woman – but do it **in reverse!**

In other words:

If you take the **qualities** and the **features** of the excellent wife found in Proverbs – and you simply **flip them** on their head!

You get the exact picture of the quarrelsome wife that Proverbs speaks of!

So in Proverbs 31 the **opposite effect** of the excellent wife is this – and see if this sounds like your heart and your home – this is the picture of the quarrelsome wife:

*A quarrelsome wife is easily found; **she's common** and she is far more costly than jewels...The heart of her husband does **NOT** trust in her, but he suffers great loss...*

*She does him harm, and not good, all the days of her life. She neglects what is hers to steward and works with reluctant hands. She consumes what others gather and provides little for her home. She rises late and sleeps early, leaves needs unmet...her home feels the absence of her care. She acts without foresight and weakens what she touches. She is clothed, NOT with strength, but with instability. She fears the future and spreads that fear within her walls. She opens her mouth without wisdom, and sharpness, bitterness, and anger is on her tongue. She does not watch over the ways of her home and she eats the bread of idleness. Her home feels the strain of her instability; her husband is diminished NOT strengthened. Charm becomes manipulation, and her beauty is vain. For she is a woman who does **NOT fear the LORD** and she will not be praised. Her works do not bless her home; but they condemn her at the gates...*

It's a powerful description isn't it!

It's haunting!

And again it goes to prove **the power of women** and their ability to build up or tear down a house!

Proverbs 14 verse 1:

The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down!

She tears it down with her nagging – her anger – her spite – her bitterness – her backbiting – and her heart!

And what's really interesting to note is that if we go back to Proverbs 27:15:

A quarrelsome wife and a constant drip are both alike on a rainy day...

The **very next verse** says that:

To restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in one's right hand...

In other words:

Have you ever tried to restrain the wind?

You ever just gone outside one day on a windy day and put your hands in the air in order to
restrain the wind from blowing?!?!

Because if you have – my assumption is that you probably **did NOT succeed!**

Because you don't have the ability to restrain the wind!

That is an utterly futile task!

And yet Solomon says – that:

You would have a better chance at **taming the wind** and holding oil in your hand than trying
to restrain a bitter and quarrelsome wife...

In other words:

You don't have the ability to change a person's heart **but God does!**

God can and does change hearts to the glory of God!

Hope in Christ

And so the good news is that:

Jesus **can** and **does** change hearts and homes **into His image!**

And it begins by going to His word – repenting of those sins – and living under the Lordship
and authority of both Jesus and your husband!

It means embracing your calling in the home – cheerfully and faithfully knowing that you are
making an **eternal difference** to the kingdom of Christ **when you do!**

Ladies there is great hope to be had in the Person and work of Jesus!

And it begins by trusting Him and obeying His word!

Point 2

But a good wife also needs a good husband

This is NOT just a one-sided sermon on wives this morning – but it's also a sermon for husbands – for men!

In fact, there's an old saying that says:

Heavy is the head that wears the crown

In other words:

A good crown **also demands responsibility!**

A good crown that **demand respect – also demands responsibility!**

A husband **does NOT get** a crown for no reason!

Because what the proverb **actually assumes** is that the husband who is wearing the crown is **doing his job** as the head of the home...

Leading – teaching – guiding – and shaping his wife into the excellent woman of Proverbs!

This is a mutual marriage – it's a complementarian task!

Which means fellas that your wife is **a reflection of your leadership** – she's a reflection of **your authority** – she's a reflection of **your shepherding**...

And how you treat your wife in the home **will determine** the kind of home that you're going to have!

Strength

1 Peter 3 says that:

Husbands are to honour their wives as the weaker vessel...

What that means is that because the husband is called to be the protector that if a husband and wife get into a cage match **for whatever reason** – the husband is going to win!

Men are just **physically stronger** than women – because that's how God designed them!

God wants you to use your strength to be tough **for her** & tender **with her!**

Which means men – your wife needs to feel safe around you

Proverbs 29:11 says that:

A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back...

It's the fool who gives full weight to his spirit and to his anger!

And men I don't think we realize **just how terrifying** it is for women to submit to a man
whom **they're NOT sure** is going to lead them or protect them!

Because when a woman marries a man – **she's trusting him** that for the rest of her life he's
NOT going to:

Hit her – hurt her – harm her – wound her – cut her – cheat on her – she is trusting that he's
going to work hard – pay the bills – love her children – finish the race – and walk with
Christ!

And when **most single women** look around and **survey the land** of most eligible men in the
church – I understand the concerns!

It is is a **huge thing** for women **to trust men** today!

And so husbands need to **alleviate those fears** by loving their wives in an understanding way
showing honour to their women as the weaker vessel because:

God loves them!

God cares for them!

And God protects them and that's what you need to imbibe as well!

Emotionally

Now what this **also means** men – is that you honour your wife:

Emotionally

Again 1st Peter 3 says:

Live with your wives in an understanding way...

That is literally:

According to knowledge...

Knowledge of what?

Knowledge of her – and knowledge of how God's designed her!

Which means men – you actually have to **know your wife** – you know what she loves –
know what she hates – it means that you have to connect with her on an **emotional level**:

NOT just sexually but intimately!

Your wife wants intimacy – she wants relationship – she wants you to show an interest in **her needs** – she wants you to open up – she wants you to be passionate and loving, and honest!

Now the common objection to this **that you hear most men say** – is that:

I don't really connect with emotions... I'm just NOT an emotional guy... I'm too tough – I'm too manly – I don't understand all that squishy/squashy stuff...

Until you see them **play football** – or **go fishing** – or watch the origin – or hunting – or golfing and you realize:

Ahhh no he's **full of emotion** – he knows **how to be emotional** – he's just **NOT** emotional about the right things!

All men have emotion – all women have emotion – both **men** and **women** are full of emotions because they're both made in God's image:

The difference is that they **express those emotions** in **masculine** and **feminine** ways!

But all men have emotions!

And so husbands you **need to realize** that all women want an **emotionally stable man** who controls his emotions for her good and for God's glory!

In a way that will bring her security – safety – and strength!

Verbally

Now what this also means men is that you have to be loving your wife:

Verbally

With the words that you use!

Proverbs 15:1 – says:

A soft answer turns away wrath

How many soft answers are we giving to our wives in an argument?

How many soft words are we using with our wives to correct them – to love them?

You know there's **those men out there** who swear:

I could never hit a woman! That's wrong! I would never hit a woman!

Right – but what about **with your tongue?**

How about **with your words?**

Do you hit her verbally?

Do you demean her vocally?

Do you talk down to her?

Make her feel small and weak?

And grind her into the ground?

Do you intimidate her?

There's a Psalm we quote regularly in our home – Psalm 34:13:

Keep your tongue from evil...

Why because God hates an evil tongue!

God hates when men talk down to women in evil – weak – and sinful ways!

Heavy is the head that wears the crown!

Ephesians

In Ephesians 5 – Paul lays down the principled duty for husbands to wives in verse 25 and following – and he says this:

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish...

Christ died for the church so that the church – so that the Church may become excellent!

Holy – Spotless – without wrinkle or blemish!

So that he might make his wife more excellent!

More holy!

More like her Saviour!

Fault/Responsibility

And so in the gospel there is a distinction made between **fault** and **responsibility**

In 1st Corinthians 15 Paul says that the essence of the gospel is that:

*Christ died **for our sins** according to the Scriptures!*

That's the essence of the gospel!

*Christ Jesus died **for our sins**!*

So that in the gospel is Jesus Christ becomes guilty for the sins that we commit?

Was Jesus Christ to blame for our sin?

Was our sin His fault!

The Answer is:

NO!

Absolutely NOT!

We committed sin!

We are culpable for sins!

We are to blame for our sin!

But...is our sin His responsibility?

YES

He took full responsibility!

He died for our sins!

Because He's the covenant Head!

And because He's the head Jesus takes responsibility for what is **NOT** His fault!

And so Fathers – husbands – and men you are responsibility for the sins of your wife and your children that you shepherd!

And what that means is that:

A man **doesn't save** his family!

But **he serves** his family!

So that even when it's **NOT** his fault – he makes it his responsibility to deal with the sin in his home!

This is the essence of the gospel – and this is what a true/biblical marriage looks like!

Conclusion

I'll finish with this – C.S Lewis was **NOT** a preacher but he did preach sermons from time to time and one of his most famous sermons was turned into a book called:

The weight of glory

And in that sermon he talks about men and women who are immortal souls!

We are made in His image – and therefore we reflect His immortal image!

And this is what he says:

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and corruption such that you meet in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations – these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting joy...

That's what's at stake in the covenant of marriage!

You have never lived with a mere mortal!

All day long we are, in some degree **helping one another** to one or the other of these destinations...

And God is making immortal souls in the process of marriage – in the process of family!

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus Christ came to save sinners and to make them **more like His glory!**

And that begins by coming to Christ – confessing your sins – and walking in the light of His glory and grace!

Whether you're a mother – or a father – or a husband – or a wife – a son – a daughter – or one person is waiting to be married!

Jesus Christ is conforming you to His glorious image **through the greatest marriage** of
Christ and the Church!

Proverbs 18:22

Discussion Questions

[Read Proverbs 12:4; 14:1; 18:22]

Main Point: *Marriage is a glorious gift that can either multiply your joy or magnify your grief.*

Q1. What would you say is the main goal of a Christian marriage? – **[Read Ephesians 5:22-33]**. Why is marriage so highly prized in the Proverbs? – Why is it important to get the picture of marriage correct?

Q2. Why do you think our culture is rejecting the notion of biblical marriage? – What are some ways in which we can go about speaking about these issues as Christians?

Q3. **[Read Proverbs 12:4]**. – What does it mean for a wife to be “*a crown*” to her husband? – What does it mean for her to be rottenness in his bones? – How can a wife strengthen or weaken her husband’s public life?

Q4. Compare Proverbs 14:1 with Proverbs 31:10-31. What practical behaviours build a healthy home? – What attitudes tear one down?

Q5. **[Read Proverbs 21:9, 21:19; 27:15]**. – Why does Scripture use such strong imagery for a quarrelsome wife? – How does “*fear of the LORD*” change the atmosphere of a home?

Q6. What are the qualities of a godly husband? – What Scriptures speak directly to men in the area of marriage? – In what ways can a husband's leadership cultivate (or hinder) his wife's flourishing?

Q7. In what ways are you currently multiplying joy or magnifying grief in your home? – Where do you most need repentance? – What practical step can you take this week to better reflect Christ in your role as husband or wife?