

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

April 26

ABIDING TOGETHER MARRIAGE

John 15:5 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

1. Back to the Garden: The _____

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

Genesis 2:21-25 (ESV) "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. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then 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.' ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

When the Bible calls her a "**helper**," it is using the Hebrew word **Ezer**.

Biblical Context: Ezer is used 21 times in the Old Testament:

- 2 times it refers to the woman in Eden.
- 3 times it refers to allied military nations coming to save a city in battle.
- 16 times it is used exclusively to describe God as the ultimate rescuer and strength of His people (for example, in Psalm 121: "My help comes from the Lord").

Being "fruitful" was God's original and ongoing desire for humanity. It meant producing a culture, a home, and a shared life that overflowed with the life, nature, character, and love of God.

Fruitfulness requires an abiding relationship with the _____ of fruit.

Genesis 3:16 (NIV) "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

Genesis 4:7 (NIV) "Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

- **The Woman's Curse:** Her fallen flesh will naturally default to trying to control, fix, manage, and master her husband. She will try to manufacture his behavior to make herself feel secure.
- **The Man's Curse:** His fallen flesh will respond to that control with a heavy, crushing hand.

2. Ephesians 5 Through the _____ Lens

Ephesians 5:20-33 (NIV) *"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Instructions for Christian Households*

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

A. For the Husband: The Fruit of _____

- You cannot manufacture that kind of love. You can only receive it.

1 John 4:19 (NIV) *"We love because he first loved us."*

B. For the Wife: The Fruit of _____

The Greek word used is **hupotassō**. It is a compound word. Hupo means "under" or "beneath." Tassō means "to arrange" or "to set in order."

C. The Mutual _____ (He in Us, Us in Him)

- A healthy marriage is not two broken people facing each other, desperately trying to complete each other. It is two people, completely secure and deeply loved by God, standing side by side, and letting His life mutually overflow between them.