

**Fighting for our Family**  
**Satan's Attack on Marriage**

Week #1: Defending Motherhood

Week #2: Fighting for our Children

Today—Satan's attack on marriages

A lot of bad teaching on marriage led to disaster

(ILL) **Man Tries to be the Head of the House**

*After reading a book called Man of the House during his commute home from work, the enlightened husband stormed into the house to confront his wife. Pointing his finger in her face, he said, "From now on, I want you to know that I am the man of this house, and my word is law. Tonight you are to prepare me a gourmet meal and a sumptuous dessert. Then, when I'm done eating, you're going to draw me a bath so I can have a relaxing soak. And when I'm finished with my bath, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?"*

*His wife responded, "My guess is the funeral director."*

(ILL) **Husband Retrieves Wife for Anniversary**

*Ralph and Janice were celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and Pastor Jones decided to take advantage of their longevity by using their story as a sermon illustration. He asked Ralph to come on stage and share some insight into how he managed to live with the same woman all those years.*

*Ralph turned to the congregation and said, "Well, I treated her with respect and spent money on her—but mostly I took her traveling on special occasions."*

*The pastor asked, "Trips to where?"*

*"For our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary," Ralph answered, "I took her to Beijing, China."*

*The crowd nodded and murmured in appreciation. When things quieted down, the pastor winked and said: "What a terrific example you are to husbands, Ralph. So, tell us where you're going now for your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary?"*

*Ralph replied, "I'm going to go back and get her."*

*Quote: "The problem with marriage is that you are attracted to a person, but you are living with a character."*

- The focus of this message is not the issue of same-sex marriage—but the ruling that has allowed same-sex marriage is just the latest in Satan’s long battle against the institution of marriage.

***But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV***

TRUTH: Satan hates marriage—especially Christian marriage—(It portrays Christ and the Church)

***Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:24-27 NKJV***

**We have failed to see the spiritual warfare that is at work!**

- Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-23 NKJV

- Parenting

Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJV

- Slave/Master—Household

Ephesians 6:5-9 NKJV

Then verse 10...

***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV***

Spiritual warfare is at work in the home—especially in marriages.

## I. Satan's Attack on the First Marriage

### A. God's plan and design in creation of humanity

***Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, 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. Genesis 1:26-27 NKJV***

1. **Imago Dei?** Intellectual ability? Moral decision making? Moral purity? Make willful choices?

(ILL) David Cline's research—Ancient kings believed they alone were made in their god's image to represent the gods.

2. God's first command to humanity was to rule

***Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28 NKJV***

- a. Not just produce babies
- b. Subdue the earth by spreading God's glory
- c. Divine mandate for marriage hasn't changed

— Produce godly offspring to spread His presence in the earth

**NOTE:** Reason God hates divorce

***And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the Lord with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV***

- He seeks godly offspring
- Does not hate the divorcee

B. Creation narrative gives great detail about God's marriage design

1. Ontological equality (created equal—both in the image of God—equal NOT sameness)
2. Normative expectations of marriage

***So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And 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." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:20-24 NKJV***

- a. Monogamous
- b. Heterosexual
- c. Sexual
- d. Husband leads
- e. Permanent
- f. Oneness and blessed of God

C. Ideal tragically overturned before the 1<sup>st</sup> child

1. Satan decries the pinnacle of God's creation

***Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. Genesis 3:1-7 NKJV***

2. Eve usurped Adam's leadership

***To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." Genesis 3:16 NKJV***

3. Adam disobeyed God, fractured covenant and blamed Eve

***Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." Genesis 3:9-12 NKJV***

4. Marriage then characterized by disharmony and struggle for domination
5. Instead of spreading the garden over the earth—they were kicked out.
6. Marriage would continue but be characterized by strife

D. There was hope in the midst of failure

***And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15 NKJV***

(Death and resurrection of Jesus)

E. Satan does not quit

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV***

F. Marriage is one of his targets

## II. Satan's History of Attacking Marriages

A. Monogamy shattered

***Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. Genesis 4:19 NKJV***

B. Heterosexuality abandoned

***And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave. Genesis 18:20 NKJV***

C. One flesh permanence ripped apart with divorce

***"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house. Deuteronomy 24:1 NKJV***

D. Unnatural sexual liaisons

***"Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death." Exodus 22:19 NKJV***

***For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Romans 1:26-27 NKJV***

E. Unnatural marriages

***Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." Genesis 6:1-3 NKJV***

Seth/Cain—Demons/Humans?

F. Israel and pagan nations

G. Solomon and pagan women

H. Christians commanded today to consider carefully who they marry

***Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV***

I. Even marriages that practice a false ascetic (religious grounds—Satanic inspired)

***Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 NKJV***

**NOTE: False teaching can even be directed at marriage!**

***Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV***

NOTE: What did they attack? Marriage!

Leads us into the main issue—Satan is still fighting hard against marriages—context for most famous passage on spiritual warfare is the Ephesian household code (5:22-6:5)

- Focus is not individual
- Family-Marriage
- This is when Satan is attacked

### **III. A Defeated But Not Yet Subdued Enemy Still Fights**

***For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 NKJV***

***Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15 NKJV***

- A. The command of being strong is accomplished when husbands and wives put on the whole armor of God.

***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-11 NKJV***

1. Satan has schemes
2. Various ways to attack and destroy

Identity of the enemy

***For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12 NKJV***

NOTE: Satan—not your spouse

## B. How do we stand?

### 1. Belt of truth

***Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth. NKJV, Ephesians 6:14a NKJV***

- a. Embrace the truth of scripture (read the Word together, what does the Bible say about your marriage?)
- b. Cultivate a relationship of honesty
  - Truth-telling
  - No secrets
  - Needs shared
  - Speak the truth in love (15)
- c. Truth holds it all together—(belt)—the other pieces attach

***The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment. Proverbs 12:19 NKJV***

### 2. Breastplate of Righteousness

***Having put on the breastplate of righteousness. Ephesians 6:14b NKJV***

- a. Imputed righteousness that comes from Christ alone
- b. Righteous living—working at doing what righteousness looks like

***And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:24-32 NKJV***

- c. Committed to living godly

### 3. Shoes of peace

***And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15 NKJV***

- a. Gospel is the foundation of your marriage

NOTE: The Gospel is what gives marriage its foundation

- b. Mutual forgiveness and sacrificial love
- c. Seek to maintain peace

***Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 NKJV***

- Don't let the sun go down on your wrath
- Don't let Satan in

***"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27 NKJV***

### 4. Shield of Faith

***Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Ephesians 6:16 NKJV***

- a. Believe objective truth
- b. Also subjective truth in Christ that He restores and heals our brokenness

### 5. Helmet of Salvation

***And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:17 NKJV***

- a. On head (mind)
- b. Reminds us of several things—renew mind
  - Sin does not master my marriage
  - True and full satisfaction only in Christ

***In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV***

### 6. Sword of the Spirit—Word of God

***And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17b NKJV***

- a. Take it up when tempted (Jesus)
- b. Word-saturated marriages will be strong

## 7. Prayer

***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18 NKJV***

- a. Divine armor is appropriated through prayer
- b. Pray together, for one another, others
- c. Stay alert—prayer for your marriage is the greatest weapon

### **Conclusion:**

#### *Linebacker Chris Spielman Helps Wife*

*When Chris Spielman play for the Buffalo Bills, he was everything a middle linebacker should be: tough, strong, and smart, with passion, total commitment, and loyalty to the game. He play the entire 1995 season with a torn pectoral muscle that he sustained in the season opener.*

*But the game took a distant second place in his thinking during the 1998 season. He chose to say home. He cooked, took care of his kids, and cared for his wife—by choice. Stephanie, Chris' wife, was struggling through a stark reality of breast cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy, and nausea were Stephanie's opponents. During her fight, Chris was at her side. His actions supported his "family before the job" credo.*

*Asked by a reporter from the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle if he'd consider a return to the Bills late in the season, Spielman said, "I'd play in heartbeat but what kind of man would I be if I backed out on my word to her? I wouldn't be a man at all."*

*Football fans saw Spielman as a man because of his aggressive, leave-it-all-on-the-field style of play. But what really makes him a man? It's his personal sacrifice and unending commitment and loyalty to his wife.*