

Date : 6 April 2025
Topic : Setting your marriage free
Key Passage : *Ephesians 2:1-7*
Key Verse : *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus Ephesians 2:1-6*

Introduction

Ephesian 2:1-7 shows that there are unmistakable contrasts between our previous state outside of Christ and our current state in Him:

Once we were dead 2:1, now made alive 2:5.

Once under God's wrath 2:3, now objects of His mercy, love and kindness 2:4-7.

Once followed the ways of the world / subject to Satan's rule 2:2, now seated with Christ in the heavenly realms 2:6. We now have the privilege to exercise His great authority to combat Satan's attack.

1) Understand where are the spiritual realms

In *Ephesians 2:7*, it is the place of Christ's exaltation and enthronement, with God *...having raised Christ from the dead and seated with Him at His (God) right hand in the heavenlies*. This is where spiritual forces of good and evil engage in battle, including the sanctity of marriage.

- How do the spiritual realms affect our marriages.

At stake are God's eternal purpose for us. The conflict of spiritual forces are arrayed against those who will do His will and purpose. We tend to look at marriage breakups from physical, emotional and financial factors, because we see visible problems. Yet God's Word tells us that the invisible in the spiritual or heavenly realm matters more.

This is the realm in which demonic spirits are defeated by our obedience to God, and where the angelic beings and Spirit of God empower us for victory over our problems. God's Word gives us the secrets, the rules by which our victory operates.

Dysfunctional marriages have spiritual roots. Understanding how demonic spirits take root in our lives, we can be set free and have a permanent solution.

- An example from Scriptures to show the interplay of spiritual and physical realms
 - King Saul's death from physical perspective
 - 1 Samuel 13 Saul's partial obedience to God which is disobedience.
 - 1 Samuel 31:3 Enemy archers wounded him critically.
 - 1 Samuel 31:4 Saul took his own life.
 - 2 Samuel 1:10 An Amalekite said he killed King Saul
 - From God's perspective / spiritual realm
 - ...so the Lord put him (King Saul) to death... 1 Chronicles 10:14*
(God gave four reasons for killing him.)
 - ① Saul had been unfaithful to the Lord
 - ② He did not keep the Word of the Lord
 - ③ Consulted a medium instead of inquiring of the Lord
 - ④ Came under a curse)

2) How do spiritual forces enter in our blood line?

Through generational sins and curses

These are curses that have been transmitted from our ancestors.

(Sins committed by our ancestors include idol worshipping, adultery, fornication, unforgiveness, etc). As a result, we have these demonic spirits which have taken root in our bloodline.

They can travel 4 generations. Being aware of these generational sins enables us to deal with them. We have to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the root cause.

Example: I once met a doctor who was divorced by his wife. The couple's teenage daughter connected them periodically but no reconciliation seemed possible even though this Christian doctor tried his best. When I explored into his family history, I found that most of his uncles and aunts were also divorced. When I looked around, pictures of beautiful women were hung on the walls of his room. It seems that his bloodline was controlled by a strong spirit of lust for women coming through the eye-gate.

3) What will open doors for demonic activity in our marriages?

Application

(The same four reasons that God gave for King Saul's death)

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a) Unfaithfulness

This refers to the sin of covenant breaking.

It can be breaking covenant with God or with our spouse.

Marriage involves the making of vows to be faithful to one another.

Is betrayal of our spouse (by breaking the marriage vows) so serious as to warrant God's severe punishment? Many Christians may not think so.

- *Malachi 2:10* says that God is the witness of marriages. Since this is a 'creation order', it applies to all marriages – Christians or otherwise. And God is not just the God of Christians. He is God of all. Therefore, God holds us accountable.
- *Deuteronomy 23:21,22* warns ...*When you make a vow, you shall not delay to pay it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you and it is a sin to you.*
- *Ecclesiastes 5:4,5* ...*Pay your vows, defer not...He (God) has no pleasure in fools...*

b) Failure to keep His Word

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This is a violation of His commandments. From Saul's example we learn that partial obedience is not obedience. Even though the Lord had appointed him to be the first King of a newly minted Kingdom, he disregarded Gods' Word. He only regretted, never repented. At the end of his life, he confessed he had been a fool.

- Ignorance of God's ways
God wants us to walk in His ways.
What is revealed in His Word but ignored also means disobedience.
- Disregard for His commandments ☐
When we know His commands but take them lightly, we dishonour His ways.
Jeremiah 17:7 warns ...*Cursed is the man whose heart departs from the Lord...*
- What are some important commands for couples we have covered?
 - husband to love wife as Christ loved us; appreciate her highly
 - forgive one another as God forgiven you
 - listen and communicate with one another
 - pray for one another.

- c) Involvement with the occult ☐
- Saul consulted a medium for guidance at work. At work behind mediums are demonic spirits. Any relationships with demonic spirits and the kingdom of darkness will open doors and give them a foothold in our lives.
 - Association with the kingdom of darkness takes place in several ways. Demonic spirits observe our actions (as listed below) and take them as openness to them.
 - visiting places when idolatry is practised
 - consulting fortune tellers, crystal ball gazers
 - keeping objects devoted to some “gods” / souvenirs associated with demons
 - wearing amulets or jewellery representing religious themes
 - witchcraft related books, tarot cards, occult related games
 - seeking blessings from temples supposedly dedicated to ‘bless’ marriages
- d) Refusal to seek the Lord first. ☐
- It is the Lord we should seek guidance first.
- It is His will we are to fulfil, not the wisdom of man or demons.

3. How to break bondages that block good marriages.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any curse and sin transmitted down your bloodline. ☐
- Acknowledge and confess all sin, including ancestral sins. ☐
Forgive any offence we have harboured against our spouse.
- Vengeance belongs to God. ☐
(Confess any intention of revenge for the pain you bore including betrayal)
- Renounce all connection with the kingdom of darkness. ☐
- Declare your allegiance to the Lord and reject all demonic spirits, ☐
casting them out in Jesus’ name.
- Receive the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus shed for your forgiveness. ☐
- Thank the Lord for freedom from bondage over your marriage or family. ☐