



TRANSFORM
OUR WORLD

THE SCHOOL OF TRANSFORMATION



FAMILY TRANSFORMATION
Week 4 **MARRIAGE INTIMACY**

SUMMARY

WEEK 4

IN THIS SESSION YOU WILL:

1. Learn four keys to transformation focused on recognizing and partnering with divinely placed marketplace ministers.
2. Learn, according to the Ephesians Grid, how transformation begins in the home with husbands and wives.

Transformation begins with personal transformation and then transformation in our closest relationships. If you are married that means your spouse. The restoration of the relationship between men and women is the point of inception for reconciliation in other relationships and the foundation for transformation.



PREPARATION

This week you will receive via email the first of three brief questionnaires. In order to get credit for the course you must hit “reply”, answer the two questions and send it to us. If you do not wish to answer the questions you may choose to audit the course.

MUSIC OF THE HEART

Women awaken in men the most intense feelings. Poetry, drama, songs and music capture the depth and intensity of those sentiments in a never-ending harmonious

cascade. From the mothers that first held them close to their bosoms to the wives that encircled them with their arms to the daughters they carried on their shoulders, men have had a most intimate relationship with women. Nothing can touch the heart of a man like a woman. She can cause wells of tenderness to spring up all over the rugged surface of his soul.

Continue reading...go to the Appendix and read the complete article from chapter 4 in the book *Women: God's Secret Weapon*



GOING DEEPER

IN THIS SESSION YOU WILL:

Watch Mentoring Session 5: Intimacy In Marriage

<http://www.transformourworld.org/en/mentoring/intimacy-in-marriage>

Welcome to Mentoring



Welcome to Mentoring
by Ed Silvano

WEBCAST

TEACHING



The Lord Jesus introduced the concept of the Church right after Peter identified him as the Son of the living God. So let's do a quick introduction of the Ekklesia and the kingdom of God.

It happened before

Acts 2:42-44

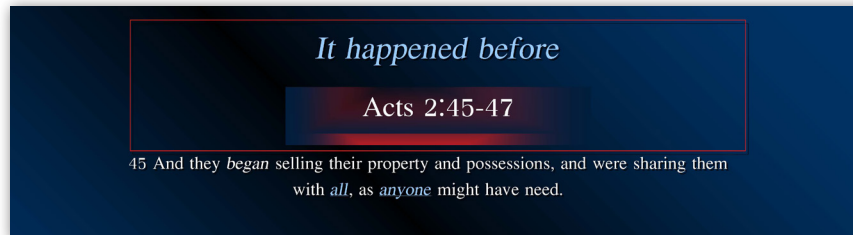
- 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.
- 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

This reinforces the teaching that church, Ekklesia in the Bible, is always people. And people who take the presence and power of God to the marketplace. They take the kingdom of God to the marketplace.

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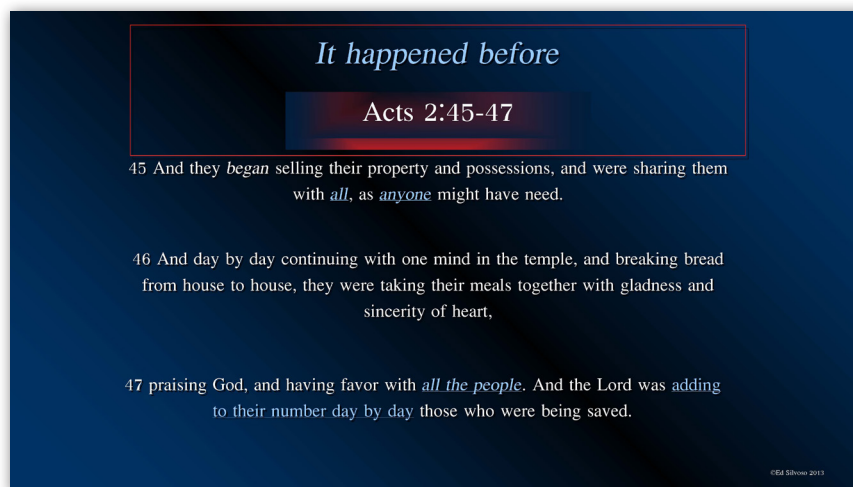
So feel validated right now whether you are a pastor who is faithfully teaching and preaching and counseling, or you are what as known as a church member. From now on as a member of the Ekklesia you are to have a sense of awe because “you ain’t seen nothing yet”.

When we go to verse 45 it says...



Historically we have understood that to mean that they were sharing only among believers. But when you look at v. 46 – “And day by day” – this is a lifestyle, “continuing with one mind”. They were partying, they were having a ball - meals with gladness and sincerity of heart.

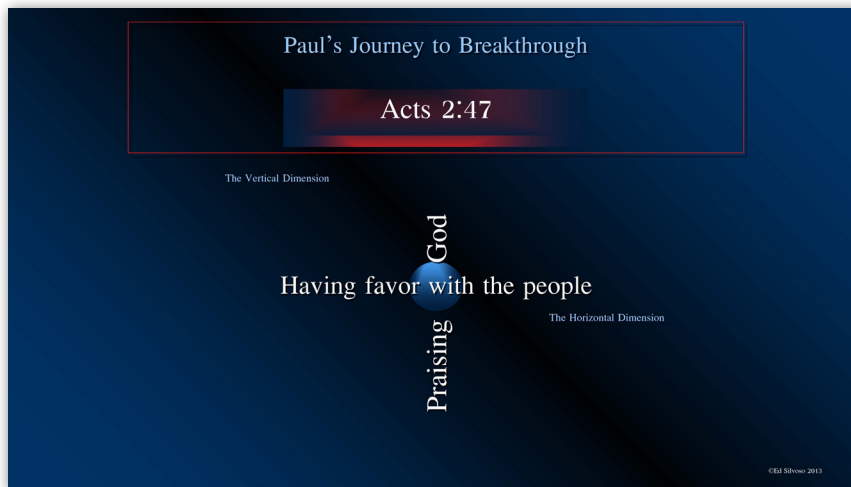
Do you remember when you first became a Christian? I do. I’ll tell you I would gather with people who were brand new believers and we were blown away. I am a child of God! The Lord indwells me! There was such a sense of gladness and joy. And then it says they were praising God...



I submit to you that the Ekklesia was meeting anyone’s need anywhere. And I believe this is foundational because what we are learning is that when we are praising God, which is the vertical dimension of our salvation, look what the Lord was doing.

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“and the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved”.

I asked the Lord, how can the church grow everyday?
How can we have news that we have at least two people, because that's what the word “those” means at the very minimum?

And the Lord said, very simple, the church operated every day and it operated in the marketplace. We have the utmost respect for the local church today. We are all members of local churches. We are not just members we are tithing members. And so we value the local church.

However..

The *Tension* between the
Synagogue and the Marketplace.

Paul could have never reached Asia *through*
the synagogue
alone.

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NOTES:

The *Tension* between the Synagogue and the Marketplace.

Paul could have ~~never reached Asia~~ *through* the synagogue alone.  Paul could not have reached Asia *without* the synagogue.

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Four Keys *to Transformation*

1. To change the city, the Marketplace must be changed
2. To change the Marketplace, Marketplace Ministers must be recognized.
3. To recognize Marketplace Ministers, pulpit pastors must partner with them...

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Four Keys *to Transformation*

4. ...To channel the spiritual wealth resident in the “synagogue” (local congregation) to the heart of the city through the divine placement of those Marketplace Ministers.

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But where does it begin? It begins in the home.

NOTES:

The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2
<i>Ethnic</i>
Jew
Gentile

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The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3
<i>Ethnic</i>	<i>Denom.</i>
Jew	All the Saints
Gentile	

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The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4
<i>Ethnic</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Minist.</i>
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers
Gentile		

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NOTES:

The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4	5
<i>Ethnic</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Minist.</i>	<i>Gender</i>
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers	Husbands Wives
Gentile			

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The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4	5	6
<i>Ethnic</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Minist.</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age/Fam</i>
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers	Husbands Wives	Parents Children
Gentile				

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The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4	5	6	6
<i>Ethnic</i>	<i>Denom.</i>	<i>Minist.</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age/Fam</i>	<i>Mktpl.</i>
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers	Husbands Wives	Parents Children	Masters Slaves
Gentile					

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The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4	5	6	6	
Ethnic	Denom.	Minist.	Gender	Age/Fam	Mktpl.	
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers	Husbands Wives	Parents Children	Masters Slaves	Engage the forces of wickedness (6:12,16)
Gentile						

Every division has a spiritual root.

The Last Frontier — *The Ephesians Grid*

2	3	4	5	6	6	
Ethnic	Denom.	Minist.	Gender	Age/Fam	Mktpl.	
Jew	All the Saints	Apostles Prophets Evang. Pastors Teachers	Husbands Wives	Parents Children	Masters (Management) (Labor) Slaves	Engage the forces of wickedness (6:12,16)
Gentile						

At the very heart of that grid are husbands and wives. That's why it's so important to realize that transformation begins in my heart and then this week we are beginning to explore how it goes to the marriage.

Let's hear a testimony from Caroline and Francis Oda, how this is working in their lives.

Video Clip: Francis and Caroline Oda – "Caroline and I are establishing a separate company with 51% going back into the community to address systemic poverty". Together spending time in the Word of God actively trusting him for ideas and plans...exhibiting the power of two who have become one in life and in a desire for transformation.

They are walking together. They have intimacy in the home and now they transfer that to the workplace.

But there is more. There is a lovely family in Canada led by Miguel and Lisa Sanchez and they were faced with the uncertainty of sending their kids to public school. And look how they put it.

Video Clip: Sanchez boys impacting their school.

There is no Jr. Holy Spirit. And that is why it is so important today to see that we must take what is in our heart to our marriage, and through our marriage to our children, and through our children to our schools. Transformation begins in my heart, but it has to play out in my marriage and with my kids.



CHUCK: A young police officer whose marriage was “six-feet under” saw his marriage transformed through the 40-day treatment to pull down strongholds.



JILL: News from Brantford where a transformational couple, Brian and Sharllse Beattie have received a prestigious award for the Kindness Project in a depressed area of town. (pictures of Captain Kindness). They have gained tremendous favor of the city by giving out hot dogs at night to those coming out of strip clubs. They have now been approached to set up city events to raise awareness and funds for all God is doing there.

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BENJY: Our topic today is intimacy in marriage. You might be thinking what does that have to do with young people. Well this topic is very important for young people. Two things: It is so important mothers and fathers, the modeling you do for your children. Someone once said, "your life is the greatest, most powerful book your children will ever read." And I believe that that is true. So the way you model your interactions with each other and the way you build up one another and honor one another makes a powerful imprint on your kids. Do your very best and don't be shy about it.

The second thing is - how important it is to teach your children to pray for their spouses.



ED: And I can testify that it works. Number 1, in the book *Women God's Secret Weapon*, I tell the story how I began to pray for my wife. And then when the Lord gave us 4 beautiful daughters, Jessica being one of them, she also began to pray for her husband and Voia! Benjy is that husband! (pictures) So it works folks! It works!

And that's why it's so important and we will hear from Chuck before the impartation, how God can take some-

thing that is wilting and put kingdom fertilizer on it and make it alive again.

But now we're going to yield the floor to Benjy who will be sharing about him and Jesica and their children, their own journey in Transformation as a couple.

And then we will add the cherry in the coke when we hear from Jill giving the perspective of someone who is an Esther waiting for her king to come. So Benjy take it from here and tell us how this is applied.

BENJY: Like Ed was saying at the very beginning, Transformation is a journey. It starts with us personally and then moves up from there. My Transformation journey began when I was 4 years old when I announced to my dad, "I got my name written in the book". And he thought I was bad and being sent to detention but then he realized, no, I was talking about the Lamb's book of life. Fast forward to about 14 yrs. old my faith began to become my own. As time went on - June 20, 1998 we got married. We made declaration together as a couple that we would be a transformational couple.

We now have 3 amazing children, we have begun to model these principles for them. I have not had to sit down and give them a 3-week workshop on what it means to be a transformational kid - they are transformational because it's in their DNA.

My encouragement is - make a declaration. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. "And we are going to become transformational." Then the Lord will give you the next step and you just take that step.

When we began on our wedding date we had no idea what was going to happen next. But we began that journey and it has been incredible how God moves us forward. There are ups and downs but we continue to press on. Get on that journey, model it for your kids and they will take it on.

JILL: This message is just as important for single people as it is for married couples, because it's all about relationships - with God, with ourselves, with others. And as Ed was saying, if there are any areas of strife in these relationships it can build up strongholds. And I've seen this in single people all over the world. And so whether you're single because you've chosen to be, or like myself, waiting for

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that right person, one of the things that has really helped me is to realize that if this is the single most important decision I will make in life, it's that important to God.

Where single people struggle to take hold of this is when they weigh their circumstances in front of the truth of God's goodness and love for them.

When I began to get ahold of this, I realized that my marriage has kind of already begun when I made that commitment before God. And the way that I behaved around other people toward myself on this subject, and toward other people, was going to impact when I actually do meet my husband.

So I really want to encourage you who are single and validate you that you are God's Ekklesia and He has a fantastic purpose for you. And today is not a filler, it is an incredible day, and God has great plans for you!

ED: I'll tell you that testimony that you shared, Chuck, about a marriage that was 6 feet under and God raised it from the dead. And also those inspiring testimonies by Benjy and Jill! Let's turn this into an impartation moment.

The first step to recovery is to believe that there is hope. So embrace hope! And let me tell you this. It works in every circumstance when we pursue the Lord.

I'd like Chuck now to share even his own pilgrimage with his lovely wife Sandy so that you'll know that we are no different than any of you. We all need the Lord on our side. And the great news is he is on our side.



CHUCK: I want to share with you why this session is so important to me, because it relates personally, going way back to our experience as missionaries in Argentina. We

went into ministry not knowing how to be married. And probably would have been a casualty, like so many ministries that start well, but they end up falling because a marriage fall apart, or something happens that destroys the ministry.

Well we hit a wall at one point but we fell into very good hands. We were involved in the very beginning of Plan Resistencia with Ed and Ruth Silvos. And as long as I can remember Ed has taught 1 Peter 3 showing how husbands first have to live in an understanding way with their wives. And how opposite that is to our nature. Yet once we get the impartation any husband can do it because it is in our DNA to do it. But without that time of personal impartation where we learn to be married in ministry I wouldn't be where I am today.

So today receive the impartation for your life, for your marriage. No matter where you are, no matter where you've been. No matter what your history is – we have people on our team who have blown it royally – have really messed up but they've come back and they've received grace. So receive that grace today.



ED: Now comes the moment of impartation as we wrap up this session in TSOT. This is the moment when the Spirit of God touches our heart and changes our mind.

Go back to the days when everything was pink and rosy and sweet. Because if it was good once it can be good a second time.

And let me read to you what I wrote in WGSW about the first day I met Ruth.

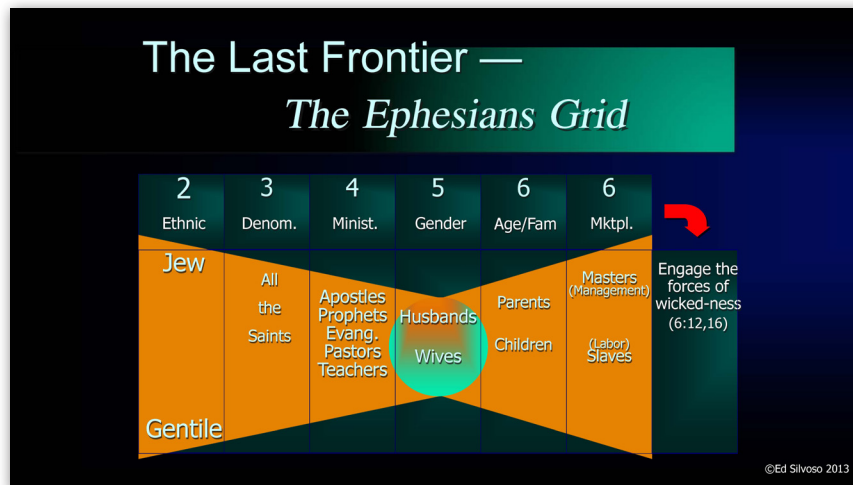
And as I read this I want you to remember when you felt attracted to you spouse. I'll tell you where there was fire once there is fire still there. You just need to stoke it.

NOTES:

(Reading from *Women God's Secret Weapon*) ...a woman has touched and changed a man for ever. And this works in reverse too.

So transformation begins in the family, begins in the marriage. As you can see on that slide on the screen with the grid from Ephesians, it's husbands and wives.

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The Bible began with a wedding performed by God, and it closes with another wedding performed by God. I'll tell you God is on your side. Let him touch you now and bless you and tell you I have power to raise anything from the dead. Just surrender to the Lord and keep working on it in obedience.

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR GROUP

1. What evidence was pointed out in Acts 2:45-47 that the sharing of resources was not just among believers as is commonly believed but that the Ekklesia was meeting anyone's need anywhere?

2. Why do you think Paul could have never reached Asia through the Synagogue alone? Why do you think Paul could have never reached Asia without the Synagogue?

3. What insights did you gain from the presentation of the four keys to Transformation? (see below)
 - 1) To change the city the marketplace must be changed.
 - 2) To change the Marketplace, Marketplace Ministers must be recognized.
 - 3) To recognize Marketplace Ministers, pulpit ministers must partner with them
 - 4) To channel the spiritual wealth resident in the "synagogue" (local congregation) to the heart of the city through the divine placement of Marketplace Ministers.

4. How does the Ephesians Grid show that at the heart of transformation is husbands and wives? Why is it important that transformation begin in your marriage?

5. What hope did today's testimonies give you...
 - 1) for your own marriage?
 - 2) that one day you will be married?
 - 3) that your children will walk with God and serve him with you?

A horizontal banner featuring a green top bar. Below it, a photograph shows the silhouettes of a man and a woman standing against a bright, hazy sky. The word "APPLICATION" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

APPLICATION

REFLECTION AND ACTION

1. Identify any strongholds in your marriage or in your family. In your notes go through the four steps James gives to destroy strongholds and apply each step to your life. Journal about the outcome and post your testimony in the forum for the week.

2. Begin the 40-day treatment to deal with a particular stronghold in your marriage or family. If you are married get together each day with your wife and make declarations about your marriage and family according to the verses God is giving you and continue until strongholds are pulled down.

3. Share your results and testimonies in this week's forum.

APPENDIX

MUSIC OF THE HEART

From *Women: God's Secret Weapon*, ch. 4 by Ed Silvoso

Women awaken in men the most intense feelings. Poetry, drama, songs and music capture the depth and intensity of those sentiments in a never-ending harmonious cascade. From the mothers that first held them close to their bosoms to the wives that encircled them with their arms to the daughters they carried on their shoulders, men have had a most intimate relationship with women. Nothing can touch the heart of a man like a woman. She can cause wells of tenderness to spring up all over the rugged surface of his soul.

CASTAWAY IN A SEA OF LOVE

I vividly remember the day when, as a teenager, I saw a picture that would change my life.

Soon after becoming a Christian I made a deal with God. I told Him that I did not want to date a series of girls to find out which one I should marry. Instead, I was determined to wait for Him to tell me when the right one came along. It was not easy, but I kept my promise. In the same fashion that the Athenians prayed to the unknown god, I prayed for the unknown girl God had somewhere for me.

A couple of years later, a friend showed me a picture of a family with several girls in it. All of a sudden I felt the Lord say to me, "The girl in the right lower corner is the one I have

for you." I immediately reached for a magnifying glass and told God that He had excellent taste!

As smitten as I was, there was little I could do about it because this girl lived in another province, hundreds of kilometers away, and she attended a church that belonged to a denomination that historically had been antagonistic toward my church's denomination.

Even if she lived in my town or we could communicate at the time, dating among Christians in my native Argentina was a very elaborate process. A potential suitor needed to be invited to visit socially, and this required an advocate. If the girl liked him, permission had to be requested from her parents for courtship to be initiated. If granted, holding hands was as far as things could go until additional clearance was obtained. On strictly a human level, my chances of connecting with her were slim at best.

However, God has a way of bringing about His will. Juan Carlos Ortiz¹ was marrying the sister of the girl in the picture, and they chose to have the civil ceremony in my hometown. The entire family was expected to come. What I did not know was that at about the same time I had heard God's message, that girl had also been shown a picture of our youth group, and she felt God say to her, "The tall guy, in the black leather jacket, he is the one I have for you." When she came to town we were both checking each other out, totally unaware of what the other was doing!

The day she arrived I went to my pastor's house for a "spontaneous" visit, and there was that girl. The moment I looked into her green eyes I became a castaway tossed in an emerald sea. Her hair was a mountain of gold. Her perfect teeth, surrounded by beautiful lips and flanked by dimples, added an incredible frame to a superb picture. Her voice was a purling contralto, and when she picked up the guitar and began to sing, I felt as if I had been transported to heaven.



She touched my heart like nothing else ever had. I knew a river of love existed but was totally unaware of how powerful it was until it invaded my soul. That day my life changed forever. Even though it would take seven years before we held hands at the altar, the day I first saw that girl I was arrested by her. All my emotions became captive to hers. I had set eyes on the sun at noontime, and I was unable to see anyone else. Oases of romance sprang up in my soul. Once again, like innumerable times through the ages since the beginning of the world, a woman had touched and changed a man forever.

That girl, the one I first saw in the photograph, is now my wife, Ruth. Together we have built a love nest where four beautiful daughters, Karina, Marilyn, Evelyn and Jessica, have been born and raised.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

While women are capable of stirring the noblest feelings in the male heart, they can also cause the deepest hurts. Music bears witness to that. From the mellow lament of country music ballads to the angry cry of the tango, songs testify to the depth of such ache. Couples who yesterday embraced at the altar, today succumb to alcohol to deaden the pain asphyxiating their once blossoming love. How can something that began so beautifully in a flowerbed end up so tragically in a cemetery plot?

The root of the problem goes all the way to the beginning of the world. Every sin affects relationships on two levels: vertical, between people and God, and horizontal, between two or more people. When Adam and Eve experienced sin, in addition to breaking fellowship with God, they also broke fellowship with each other. The perfect intimacy they once enjoyed was shattered. The same Adam who days before described Eve as "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" and coined the word "woman" to describe her, now disowned her and accused her before God of being the source of his spiritual misery.

The first sin created a gap between man and woman, the gender gap which is the oldest horizontal gap. Since that sad day in the Garden, men and women have suffered its consequences, the most devastating of which is the utter state of incompleteness for both of them when they do not walk in harmony. This in turn has handed the devil a tremendous advantage. Never has the axiom "divide and conquer" rendered higher dividends than when Satan applied it to the gender gap.

Jane Hansen, the president of Aglow International, captured the urgency and the relevance

of this when she said, “When God created Adam He made him in His own image, male and female. Both components were in Adam. When God took part of Adam to create Eve, he became totally male while she came to embody the female dimension of God. It is imperative for men and women to be reconciled in order to be able to fully express God’s image on earth.”² Jane Hansen’s point cannot be emphasized enough: Men and women must be reconciled to reflect God on Earth!

THE FIRST LOSS

Christ came to seek and save what was lost. On the horizontal level, the first loss was intimacy and equality between male and female. Its consequences stretch through the ages. The need for wholeness between genders goes beyond male and female. It affects institutions, secular and religious, as well as families.

Even though the Old Testament closes on a very high note of hope, predicting that in the last days God will turn the hearts of parents toward their children (see Mal. 4:4-6), for this to happen parents must be reconciled among themselves first. Reconciliation is needed because many, if not most of the problems found among youth today are the visible expression of roots hidden beneath unresolved gender issues which trace their original source back to the Garden.

THE ANTIBODY

Reconciliation between men and women is the key. But within this key there is another one: the restoration of women. Men build houses, but women turn them into homes. It is this extraordinary ability to nurse and nur-

ture that has to be affirmed and released.

Like Eve in the Garden, women have been lied to by the devil. Like Adam on that fateful day, men continue to conspire with their silence and judgmental pronouncements. The consequences are painful and have reached epidemic status because every generation is born with this virus.

Even though Christ’s death changed everything, most people, even Christians, are still unaware that a divine vaccine is available. Christ injected Himself with the deadly bacteria and overcame it to produce lifesaving antibodies. “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ [and] there is neither . . . male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:27,28, NIV).

It is about time for the chain of despair to be broken and for women to take the seat of honor that Christ has for them. This is not a passive placement. To the contrary, it is at the forefront of God’s plans. God opens the Bible with a threat to Satan, “I will put enmity between you and the woman” (Gen. 3:15) and closes with a picture of a city where multitudes dwell with God forever because her seed (Jesus) has crushed Satan’s head (see Rev. 21).

The day is fast approaching when women all over the world will hear the word “fight,” and fight they will. But for this to happen, men and women need to become aware of the web of subtle lies they have embraced and through which women have been held down.

The power that enforces those lies is the lack of reconciliation between genders. Not only are women incarcerated, but so are men

because they will never be everything they are meant to be until they become reconnected to the suitable help. Without this reconnection, both men and women are utterly incomplete.

Women are indeed the music of the heart. When they are ignored or abused, it is like the string and brass sections of a symphonic orchestra going mute in the midst of a performance. Worse yet, when women are abused, as we will see in the next chapter, the instruments suffer irreparable damage.

NOTES

1. Juan Carlos Ortiz is a well-known Argentine revivalist and author of the best-selling book, *Disciple: A Handbook for New Believers* (Lake Mary, FL: Creation House, 1996).
2. Jane Hansen (presentation at the International Council of Apostles gathering, Dallas, Texas, December 8, 2000).



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