



# *WHO'S IN CHARGE OF YOUR MARRIAGE?*

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howdy Mark and Grace Driscoll here with the Real Marriage podcast we're looking at marriages in the Book of Genesis and uh this is part two on Adam and Eve of course first married couple in the history of the world and the question is how can you and your spouse uh have God over your marriage and uh sometimes people want God in their marriage but they don't want God over their marriage like they want God to come along side but they don't want him they want the blessing but they don't want him to rule over yeah they don't want they don't want to be under his authority and so what we see in uh Genesis is the first uh wedding and so it's a prototype anytime there's a prototype uh then everything else gets built off of the Prototype and so this is the prototype for marriage we see that it's one man one woman woman it's a covenant with God that is consummated sexually and um one way to look at the Great Book of Genesis is a series of case studies on family Dynamics what a lot of sociological or psychological journals will do they'll do case studies and they'll look at people and they'll extrapolate lessons positive and negative from their life that's kind of our approach to Genesis these are real people and real families but they serve as case studies for generational architecting of family and what we learn in Genesis 1 is that God divinely designs and Architects the world and then in Genesis uh 2 he Architects marriage and so the same God who created the world created marriage and in the world when we work against God's created order we cause ourselves a lot of pains and problems um and similarly in marriage when we operate according to God's divine design there is blessing when we work against it there's a lot of pain and so um I'll just read it to you Genesis 2 pretty famous then the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone and so what God is saying is um we're better together and anybody who looks at their spouse and says I don't need you is calling God a liar right and uh and so just like there is the Trinity one God three persons um marriage is a little bit like the trinity it's it's the man and the woman two persons but they're one and they're better together he says I'll make a helper fit for him and that's the same word or same concept of the holy spirit in the New Testament he's our Helper and so then God uh made all the animals brought them to Adam Adam got to name them and he's probably thinking Lord please tell me that's not her oh that's an arvar okay good finally God makes the woman from the side of the man and that's where she comes from she's not to be ahead like feminism would teach or behind like chauvinism would teach but alongside as a friend and and a partner and then uh God brings the woman to the man and so God here in the first marriage he's like the dad walking the daughter down the aisle and he's the officiant uh officiating the ceremony it's kind of like when our oldest daughter was married I I kind of got to do both I walked her down the aisle and then I officiated the wedding and one of the greatest days of my whole life and this is God doing the same and then the man said and so this is the first recorded words of any man in human history it's like he didn't even talk until the woman showed up and in the Hebrew it's a song it's poetic uh bone of my bone Flesh of My Flesh she shall be called woman for she was taken out of man and so the man bursts into song and uh and so this is the first wedding it's beautiful it's poetic um you know they didn't have to go get a tux and a dress it was pretty on the attire um low budget very very very low budget and um and so when it comes to Christians we just view marriage totally different than non-christians or we should we should and so in um in most people's understanding it's a husband and a wife and then it becomes a power struggle to see which one is going to be over the other mhm okay uh did we have some of that early on in our marriage you and I struggling to see which one was going to be in charge not really are you kidding me this is where we get real in the real marriage dating or no no marriage early on we got married there were things that you wanted that I didn't want and there was things that I wanted and you didn't want so we'd have a I know felt little in the beginning what oh my gosh really yeah maybe you're

overreacting oh okay so um but did you feel early in the marriage that um that I could be a little overbearing domineering I'll ask the question a different way uh yes yes and uh and how did that make you feel uh less valued less valued because I I'm kind of a force of personality sometimes and uh and so I miss I think when we got married I I misunderstood this whole notion of headship isn't being the boss it's not being the king it's not being the ruler it's taking responsibility for the well-being of the other and so it's not about me being over you uh but me putting you first as a priority it's leading lovingly yeah like Christ loves the church yep and uh and then there were times though that you um you would get passive aggressive and you would try to reverse um The Authority structure and you would try and be the boss oftentimes more cute and subversive than my methods how common do you think it is in a marriage where one person is trying to sort of be over the other and it leads to a lot of tension and conflict I mean it's part of our curse so to rule over the man so I think I mean 100% of women struggle with that from one aspect or another um some it's very in your face some it's like you said passive aggressive it's resentment in the heart and wanting to secretly do things or say things um I think we try and do that in all kinds of different ways as women and then you know men can respond to that either sinfully or um in a loving leading way and so in the first marriage with Adam and Eve um God was obviously over it he created the man gave him instructions directives created the woman brought the woman to the man spoke to them both told them kind of here's the this is what marriage is here's my decrees and commands uh the rest of scripture God has a lot more to say and so ultimately the Christian view of marriage is it's not a husband and a wife and no one else it's the husband and the wife and the Lord and what happens in a marriage where the Lord is not really understood as being over the couple one of two things happen either there's a power struggle between the husband and the wife to see which one would be in charge and usually the the stronger personality wins or sometimes the most emotional dramatic one wins or there becomes manipulation like hey you know I'll I'll do this if I get this it turns into a hostage negotiation or if the man is passive the woman feels like she needs to step up because someone needs to lead we're going to see that in Genesis 3 it doesn't go really well yep and or what happens is they they get to a point where they've one's tried to rule over the other and it's not really working so then their life becomes like parallel train tracks and they're not one it's like you do your thing I do my thing we keep our distance because every time we come together we kind of we have a blow up we have a war we have a conflict and so what we see in a Christian marriage is God's over it and as simple as this concept is oftentimes even when people will read a marriage book go to a marriage conference or listen to a podcast what they're looking for is information to give their spouse so that they can be in charge yep you got to listen to this podcast to point fingers the husband says that you got to do what the wife says you know no no no you got to listen to this podcast uh they say that you got to do what the husband says and what difference does it make very very practically to just come to the agreement I'm Not Over You you're not over me he's over us both and we both are under his authority and he is the one who is over this marriage well I think for a woman practically knowing that God is over it is safe because even if not even if but when a man a husband sins um if he's submitting to God and she's submitting to God she feels like it'll get worked out and God's going to resolve this because we're both going to submit to him and if he's you know on the passive side then she can appeal to the Lord to help him to lead if he's on the domineering side then she can appeal to the Lord that he would have a softer heart and learn that but when God's over it you have someone to appeal to um and you don't feel like it's just you and your struggle and you don't know what to say or do because it's you know it's just you and knowing that God is literally over it we dealt with in the

first episode God's blessing if you're not acknowledging God's Authority Rule and Reign Over your marriage uh then he's not going to bless it uh cuz he only blesses uh he only blesses his will not our will and I'll never forget some years ago um God spoke to me and uh and he said you know before she was your wife she was my daughter and it was his way of just reminding me like uh I'm over you and I'm over this marriage and that is my daughter MH and now that I have daughters I I see exactly what he was talking about um but what are the practical ways or just some suggestions theoretically most Christian couples would say well we know it's not just us it's also the Lord and yeah he's over our marriage but practically what does this look like for a couple to live under God's authority over both of them in the marriage so that they're Al onside one another working to obey God but they're not trying to rule over one another as God well being in the word together and separately you have your own uh relationship with the Lord and you have to give an account for that someday and you can't blame it on your spouse um and worshiping together a same church you know same doing the same things to worship God together under the same teaching in the same Community um yeah and I mean how would you feel as a woman if if I wasn't in the scriptures or I wasn't in prayer or I wasn't in worship yeah like I said it doesn't feel safe if you think the husband's not under the submission of God yeah because uh I mean if your spouse isn't under God's Authority um and they're not living practically under God's Authority the odds of them putting themselves In Harm's Way that could cause catastrophic damage to the marriage and family is exceedingly High yeah spiritually and emotionally it just doesn't feel um like peaceful yeah and how does this work out then when it comes to making big decisions usually a couple when they've got to make decisions uh usually there's one person who's the dominant personality and sort of pushes for the outcome that they want uh sometimes that can lead to a lot of stalemates or a lot of conflict or one person feeling like they're sort of being drug along or pushed along and and they're not really being considered in the decision-making process MH what does that look like for a husband and a wife to both say we're we're GNA find God's will yeah I mean I think we talked about pros and cons I think figuring out for each of us what our pros and cons are in a situation um and then coming together and having a conversation and for me I know that sometimes my decisions can come out of fear um and so I have to be careful not to uh consider something or try and make a decision out of fear so when I come with my ideas and you come with your ideas and we sit down and talk about it we can point those things out to each other um and then we can say Okay Lord this is this is what we've come together please show us give us wisdom in this um and if we're way off track we need to know that if we're going in the right direction and you have a plan here then we want to know that as well and so it's really it's considering one another but it's above that seeking the Lord's will and for me I can do a lot of research and I like to strategize and I like to sequence and then I could turn into a Salesman and I'm pushing you like well here's all the reasons I've done all the data da d da d da so there was a a season um we talked about in the first episode but we had a massive decision to make like one of those generational altering cuz like yeah where you live where you go to church where you raise your kids where they go to college where they get married where they raise their those are that's big and a lot of people right now are making that big decision that we made some years ago and that is we're going to move to another state we're going to reset our whole life new house new school new family new friends new job new church like complete hard reset on life and um if we didn't agree on that decision we would have blown up our marriage MH cuz there were too many days that it was too stressful and there were too many unknowns and it was too it was just too overwhelming quite frankly and so um maybe explain to them how in that moment it wasn't what do you want what do I want but we were both

seeking the Lord asking okay Lord you're over the marriage and you need to tell us together what you want us to do so that it's not one of us winning uh but it's both of us worshipping by doing what it is you want us to do and maybe just explain practically what that process looked like for us and especially for you yeah I mean you you are a researcher so you had to do all that and I didn't have I had to not get annoyed by that or put off by that I had to just let you do that because that's what you need to do to process and so I needed to be okay with that and not feel pushed by that and but when you did push too far and kept giving information like a Salesman it was like okay I need you to step back I've got the information I need I don't need as much as you but I've got the amount of information I need I need to hear from the Lord I need to hear not separately as far as um us making separate decisions but I need to hear what the Lord is asking because I knew again with me there were fears involved I'd never lived anywhere else I'd never you know had friends in other states that I had to make there's there's so many variables I've had not had to choose School in a community where I knew nothing about the community um I've not had to you know up and pack up everything and move it to a whole another state you lived in the same house your whole life yeah I did and so for me it was Major and there were a lot of fears like what if this what if that oh my gosh I can't handle this or that and so the Lord had to work in me to be able to even help me hear his voice because the fear can cloud um and crowd out his voice and so um I needed that space just I had the information that you had gathered and I needed to hear from the Lord and first I needed to hear that yes we were moving and then from there then I wanted to hear okay Lord what does that look like what's my part in this what location what are the variables and then we start to put started to put a list together of kind of the variables we were looking for that we knew the Lord had for us and part of that was getting into a a place that was that had more sun because you have Seasonal effective disorder and that affects your whole outlook and so my wellbe and I was fine with that because I love the Sun as well so there's things that came up like that that that it was great we knew the Lord was directing Us in certain ways um but we really had to just walk through each of the my fears and your concerns and all your research and we just took it bit by bit and then once God started to join us in that decision-making process and we then we could walk it together but we were very much coming at it from different angles and the Lord needed to to get us to a place where we could Journey that together well back to Adam and Eve God says it's not good to be alone and that your spouse is a helper meaning you know you're probably not going to make the right decision on your own and your spouse is different than you because they help bring insight and wisdom and gifts that are different and never forget so maybe be honest with the listeners where where did I want to go my will was California California uh your will was not California stay stay in Washington so so you were like I want to stay in washing I was like I want to go to California it's sunny and I can go to La and d d d and and your thoughts on California were it's a celebrity culture and I didn't want to raise kids in there yeah I'm not moving there I like okay so you and I could have had just uh you know almost like an arm wrestling match you're like I'm staying in Washington I want to move to California it could have blown up our whole oh absolutely marriage cuz if we we could have said hey fine I'll stay in California and you move to California you moved to I'll stay in Washington and you moved to California and then I'll never forget there was one day you were like I've heard from you I need to hear from the Lord I don't need you to bring up your research I appreciate the research but I need to hear from the Lord you need to hear from the Lord and it took months MH it took two months yeah that's a long time for you that's a long time for me yeah um but then the Lord spoke to both of us and called us to Arizona MH and that wasn't what you wanted originally and that wasn't what I wanted but we both heard from the Lord he was

over the marriage and I was like Lord tell her we get to go to California you know he's like son no and well I'm not usually as adamant as I was about not moving to California but I was very I knew that that's not where the Lord wanted us I just knew it in my soul in retrospect it was such a protection of us we we we've been totally richly blessed we're in the place that God wants us I'm 100% convinced of that yes he's confirmed it in many ways innumerable ways and blessed us richly like we talked about in the first episode but again God made marriage and he didn't make the husband or the wife to be the highest Authority he is the highest Authority and he made the husband and the wife to be under his authority and to seek his will and it's not good to be independent alone you help each other you're better together I don't think that um you and I would have come up with Arizona I I didn't know anything about it really until you did your research here's the house per square foot price and here's the traffic patterns and they have a airport and here's the Colleges and Schools and here's the distance to the mountains and it's cooler in the summer here's the cost of living and you know and you're like I don't care um and so we're better together but um we absolutely landed on the will of God and the place that he wanted us to be and our children and you know Lord willing someday soon whenever the Lord Wills Grant children to be mhm and it all comes out of the simple principle that starts with Adam and Eve and that is God is over the marriage yeah and God knows what's best for you and God knows what the future holds because all my research seven years eight years later how many years it's been all the data has changed oh yeah 100% I mean you know the whole world has changed and God knew what was coming and I didn't so I'm making all my research and data analysis based upon known facts and God sees a future that I don't know and so our our encouragement and our exhortation to you as a married couple would be this often times people weaponize God and what religious people love to do in their marriage they love to go to the Bible find verses that allow them to rule over their spouse and sort of get their way and if you are one of those people you're you're misusing God's word God's word is not for you to control or rule over your spouse is to help you and your spouse find God's Will and live under his Rule and this is where sometimes religious people will weaponize the Bible and use it in a in a way that God never intended and won't bless and so our question to you would be and this would be a good conversation for you and your spouse are you both functionally practically actually from the heart living under God's rule seeking God's will or you trying to be be the one who is over your spouse and get your way even using God talking scripture as part of your aroner uh Your Arsenal in your Weaponry um and I just want to thank you honey I mean you heard from the Lord and he said no to California and I'll just be honest not being in California trying to preach through books of the Bible during covid and social justice riots worked out pretty good yes amen you want to pray for them as they have a discussion about how they can live under God's rule practically in their marriage yeah dear Lord thank you that you've already told us what the curse is so we can live knowing that that's going to be a tendency um Lord the man is going to want to be passive and the woman's going to want to rule over and we don't want that for these marriages we want your way because we know there's blessing that comes with that we know that there's a deepening of our love for each other that comes from that and there's wisdom that comes from that so Lord just Direct IR us um as women how to be better helpers and direct the men how to be loving leaders and Lord thank you that you created us and you know what's best and that we would trust that and put you as the head of our marriage in Jesus name amen