

Timeline of Truth
The First Births – God’s Plan (and Chronology) for Children
(Genesis 4:1-2a)

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore **Cain**, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

² Then she bore again, this time his brother **Abel**.

SUMMARY: "I have acquired a man **from the LORD**." This 4-part process that God designed is God’s way of giving children. This text (and many others) makes it clear that God gives children. Marriage is God’s intentional plan for children to be conceived, birthed, and raised in a home with a father and mother. Children need to be seen as gifts from God, and His intentional plan and primary avenue of blessing in marriage. As such, children need to be welcomed from God, not rejected or prevented.

God is involved in this process! Further, if we deviate from God’s order and plan, we only hurt people (babies being aborted, mothers not being supported, children growing up without parents, etc.). The point is that God’s plan works, when we follow it. We need to encourage people to follow God’s plan without unduly judging those in such situations.

1. **Marriage** (“wife”) – **TOGETHER**

(Becoming one, uniting in marriage)

God first brought Adam and Eve together in marriage, prior to any introduction (!) and any intimacy. God’s plan first involves uniting a man and a woman as one for life. (Gen 2:21-25)

The first human relationship in the Bible was marriage. It is the basic, key relationship referred to over and over in the Bible, and upon which all other relationships are built.

2. **Intimacy** (“knew”) – **TOUCHING**

(Being together, enjoying God’s gift of pleasure)

Physical intimacy is designed by God to follow marriage. Marriage by design and definition involves a male and a female who can and should enjoy physical intimacy.

[I think “touching” is actually a good word. God allows a husband and wife to enjoy touching in a special way. Paula has used “leave your clothes on until marriage,” which is a good negative way to say it. We could probably also say that God gives a special gift to a husband and wife – those who are married – the gift of “touching with their clothes off” or something like that. Kids don’t need great detail, but we need to teach this, especially in our day!]

3. **Conception** (“conceived”) – **TREASURE**

(Bearing children, God’s intended blessings)

God’s design and primary outcome of marital intimacy is to bear children. *God designed intimacy to lead to conception.* The *primary* purpose of our gender in marriage is to “be fruitful, and multiply, fill the earth...” (Gen 1:27-28) (There is no talk of “family planning” or “deciding how many children to have” in the Bible. One has to look *outside* the Bible and look *to man’s reasoning* to find it.)

4. **Birth** (“bore”)

This is really just “Part B” of #3. This may seem redundant, but God intends for us to bear, not abort, our children. God gives us babies to care for, not to kill. When God gives a baby to a mommy & daddy, he also gives that mommy & daddy to the baby.

The God designed outcome of *marriage* → *intimacy* → *conception* is bearing children, not aborting them. Marriage and intimacy extent IS to bear children first and foremost. It is not designed for self-fulfillment (though marriage can and should be fulfilling) or self-focus (as opposed to giving oneself to the selfless, hard, lifelong work of raising children).

Summary statement: “I have acquired a man **from the LORD**.” This is God’s plan, not man’s plan. It is how God intended for marriage to be, the process for God to bless us with children, and for us to receive and raise them.

Do we welcome children from God as gifts and blessings? Do we have a positive view of children as the Bible presents them to be?

Extended Scriptural Evidence:

Marriage:

- Gen 2 happens before Genesis 1 (fits in between God creating them - Gen 1:27 “male and female He created them,” and God commanding “them” in Gen 1:28 to “be fruitful & multiply...”)
- Commands and punishments for adultery (being intimate with someone other than your spouse) and fornication (being intimate with someone you are not married to). (e.g. Ex. 20:14; Lev 20:10; Matt 5:27-28, 32; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:19)

Intimacy (after Marriage)

- Implied when children are expected
- Proverbs 5:15-22
- Song of Solomon

Commands and expectations regarding marriage and children:

- Be fruitful/multiply commands/blessings/promises:
Gen 1:28; 9:1,7; 12:2; 16:10; 17:2,6,20; 21:18; 22:17; 26:4,24; 28:3; 35:11; 46:3; 48:4; Ex 1:7; 32:13; Lev 26:9; Deut 6:3; 7:13; 8:1; 13:17; 28:63; 30:5,16; 1 Chron 4:27; 27:23; Psalm 107:38; 128:3; Jer 23:3; 30:19; 33:22; Ezek 36:10; 37:26; Heb 6:14
- Psalm 127:3-5
³ Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So *are* the children of one's youth. ⁵ Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.
- Psalm 128:1-4
¹ Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. ² When you eat the labor of your hands, You *shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. ³ Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.
- Malachi 2:14-15
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.
- 1 Timothy 2:15
¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
- 1 Timothy 5:9-10
⁹ Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.
- 1 Timothy 5:14
¹⁴ Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
- Titus 2:3-5
³ the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.