

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, May 9, 2010
Divine Design

When God created man in his own image it was not a beta-test. "Let's give this a shot and see how it works!" His creation was perfect by Divine Design. Everything God does is perfect. He cannot make a mistake. Nothing is too hard for him or an effort for him. For something to be hard for God would imply that there was a force outside of himself that he had to surmount thus revealing that he is not all in all. He has no weaknesses. He is all-knowing, all-loving, all-good, all-powerful, everywhere present, and a personal God, not a force or an abstract power. He is a relationship within himself, existing in the persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God always existed. He said of himself, "I am that I am." Time is a creation for us to live in because we have a beginning. He has no beginning and no end. This is what makes him God. When he said, "Let us make man in our image," it was the perfect idea. That image was male and female and what he joins together man must not separate. Some people would have liked God to program into us the right behavior, i.e. that we would have to do it. Choice would not be a factor. The problem with that is that we would no longer be in God's image. He needed to give us a free will in order to love him from who we are, not some programmed response. Adam and Eve's fall was not due to a faulty design, but a result of their choice to go against what God had told them.

My daughter Rachel and Angelo Sarna Jr. got married yesterday in a beautiful wedding ceremony where I spoke to them the heart of this message with the intent to give them a firm foundation for the trials that come. And come they will! Jesus told us that we would have trouble in this world, but to be of good cheer because he is our overcomer. Alarming statistics tell us that 1 out of every 2 marriages fail and I don't want them to ever find themselves on the negative side of that statistic. Keeping God's plan in focus while staying in relationship with him is the key. God knew Adam and Eve would sin and already had the plan in place to make everything right in the person of his son, the Lord Jesus Christ through whom the love of God would be revealed. The true bridegroom would demonstrate how love acts. He would take our sins upon himself and free us from our self-centeredness. The result for whoever would choose him would be eternal life in him. It would be a marriage where the two become one. Christ in us. This was always God's plan that our life would be a union of him in us. Marriage typifies that mystical union as the Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:32.

Marriages get into trouble when people think of themselves as the same individuals they were before they got married. They fail to realize that the two have become one. While Rachel and Angelo both retain their individuality, it now has the added dimension of their union. They are one. When we keep in perspective the fact that God unites himself to us and will never leave us or forsake us, he empowers us to be just like him. His strengths are now our strengths. When we go through the fire of temptation, wrong thinking can enter in and tempt us to think as individuals and fantasize of greener pastures, but we cast those imaginations down and allow the divine design and Christ's love to flow in us and through us. The closer you are to him, the closer you'll be to one another. This message is not just for those who are married. God's design is for everyone to be in relationship with him through Jesus Christ. This union makes us a new creation in Christ. There are no greener pastures. He has the perfect plan and will always direct our steps.

If you are being tempted to go back to a former way of life where self-centeredness rules and if it feels good do it, make a reality check. God's plan is the best plan. His love is true love. ***Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4***