

The Cultivation Principle: Partnership Pt 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 5th

The Parable of Mt 13 reminds us that in order for the soil to become productive, it must be Cultivated!

Cultivation involves: Preparing Soil (and souls) for growth (Hos. 10:12); Protecting by Fostering growth by labor, care or study. Eph. 5:29; 1 Pt 3:7; Partnering: “Cultivating” relationships. (Pr 18:24)

Last week we discussed the reality that God partners with us in the cultivation of our own souls.

1 Cor 3:9 *“We are Laborers together with God”*

God’s Part	Our Part
Reveal (roots, rocks, weeds, sin) 1 Jn 1:5,6; Ps. 139:23-24	Respond (<i>Recognize, Repent, Realign, Relinquish</i>) Mt 16:24-26; Lk 14:33-35
Convict (<i>Reprove</i>) Jn 16:8	Cooperate: (<i>Repent</i>) 1 Jn 1:9
Direct (<i>Guide</i>) Ps 32:8; Pr 3:5,6	Decide to follow (Go and Grow!) Josh 24:15; Pr 3:5-6
Lead (Nāhâ’: to guide and govern!) Ps. 5:8; Ps. 23	Follow (Ps 23); Feed (Heb 5:12-14); and Weed . (Heb 12:1,2; 2 Tim 2:21-22)
Keep/ Protect (Jn 17:12; Jude 24)	Cultivate (Jer. 4:3) and Pursue (Phil. 3:14)

God also partners with others to represent Him and “His Part”.

Last week we discussed “Ministry Partners”. (Heb. 13:7,17; Heb. 3:12-12; 10:23-25)

This morning we’ll discuss another important relationship that God’s designed to partner with Him to cultivate our souls.

Partners in Marriage Gen. 2:18

1. God’s Design

A. God created us with the need for “help” Gen 2:18 *“I will make him an help meet for him.”*

B. In order to help, she had to be similar, yet different. *“an help meet”* (‘ezer) *for him.*”

(From ‘āzar’: meaning to surround, protect, aid, A Variant

1) Variant means “*manifesting variety, deviation, disagreement.*”

2) We appreciate the “variety” but are vexed by the disagreement.

2. Satan’s Desire

A. Satan sought (and seeks) to divide this partnership. Gen. 3:1-6

1) This is his nature! Jn 8:44; Jn 10:10 *“The thief comes not but for to steal, kill, and destroy”*
(apollymi: to mar, destroy) (See Mt 10:13 and Rev. 9:11)

B. Notice how he did (does) this. Gen. 3:1-6

1) Through Separation. (Makes it easier for him)

a) Remember “help meet” means to protect, aid

b) Where was Adam during this conversation?

c) Separation gives him room to work. (Eph. 4:26,27)

2) Through Deception vs 1 *“more cunning...”* (See 1 Tim. 2:14)

a) Questions God’s Words 1 *“hath God said...?”*

b) Questions God’s Motives. 5 *“God knows ...your eyes shall be open and ye shall be as gods”*

3) Through Seduction. 1 Jn 2:15 “all that’s in the world:

- a) “the Lust of the flesh”: *“good for food”* vs 6
- b) “Lust of the eyes”: *“pleasant to the eyes”* vs 6
- c) “Pride of life”: *“desired to make one wise”* vs 6

“Then she took the fruit and did eat, and gave to her husband...”

4) Through Rebellion (Sin) (This makes it natural for us!) Ro. 6:16; James 1:13-16

16 “*Do not err* (planao: roam, drift) *my beloved...*”

- a) Eve’s “mind” drifted from God. (Deceived)
- b) Adam’s “heart” drifted from God. (Seduced) (Ro. 5:12)

C. Notice the Immediate consequences of sin affected key relationships.

- 1) With God: Hiding (separating) from God. 3:8
- 2) With each other: Blaming each other(s). 3:12 *Failure to accept personal responsibility!*

D. Notice the long term consequences of their choices.

- 1) The nature of Eve’s consequence (curse). 3:16 *“I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; ... thy desire (Teshûqâ’ from shûq: to run, reach after or OVER!) shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (māshal’: govern)*
 - a) This exact phrase is repeated in Gen. 4:6,7 to Cain
- 2) The nature of Adam’s consequence (curse). 17-19 *“cursed be the ground for thy sake”*
- 3) Notice that the specific consequences (curses) of their sin effected that that which God intended and designed to bring fulfilment: For the woman (*Harmony and Satisfaction in relationships*)
For the Man (*Satisfaction and success at “work” In the pursuit of providing for his family*)
Became contaminated with tension and frustration!

3. God’s greater than Satan’s plans or our problems. Ro 8:28; Gen. 50:20

A. This tension is inevitable

- (1) We’re all inherently/occasionally selfish. Ro 3,6,7
- (2) Paul acknowledges this pressure in 1 Cor 7:28 reminding us that marriage will produce: *“trouble (thlipsis: pressure) in the flesh”* and commands the married couple to focus on each other’s pleasure instead of their own. (Vs 33-34)

B. This tension is intentional!

- 1) Marriage is the best platform for growth because it exposes our own natural selfishness; and This requires Growth and Grace to overcome. (Jms 4:5-8)

C. This tension is navigable!

- 1) God’s solution is to let him “mashal” (govern) each of us. Eph. 5:18-33; 1 Pt 3:7

Conclusion: Gen. 2:15 *“the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it (‘ābad: cultivate) and to keep it.” (shamar: protect)* God gave him Eve to do the same with (and to) Adam! Satan came (comes) to frustrate God’s design cultivating: *Separation, Deception, Seduction, and ultimately Rebellion in order to drive us from God and each other Filling our “paradise” with weeds of selfishness, worldliness, and worry.*

Application: *God asks us to partner with him (and others) to restore His designs (Eden) in our relationships. (Jer 29:11; 1 Cor 3:9; Phil 2:13; Jn 10:10; Is 62:3-4*

Jn 10:10 “The thief comes... to steal, kill, destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that more abundantly!”