**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. January 14, 2018**

**Paradise Lost**

Genesis 1:26-31

**Key Truth:** Discipleship to Jesus has a profound effect on how we live and treat those closest to us.

1. Why God created the family. Genesis 1

 A. The family was created to multiply the image of God in the

 earth.

 B. The family was created to have dominion and rule over the

 earth.

 C. The goal of the family is leaving a spiritual legacy that

 glorifies God and blesses society.

2. How God created the family. Genesis 2

 A. He started by creating a man with his identity and purpose

 established by God.

 1. A man’s identity is not to be first defined by his sexuality.

 B. God created Eve as an equal co-heir with Adam to help him

 have dominion and rule over the earth. 1 Peter 3:7

 1. Society is maintained and preserved because of strong

 and healthy families.

 2. The church thrives because of strong and healthy

 families.

3. The breakdown of the family. Genesis 3

 A. A spiritual attack forged by Satan.

 B. Rebellion against the rule and reign of God.

 C. Believing that God’s plan for our lives leads to unhappiness

 and limitations.

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Don’t neglect the Bible, which is God’s instruction manual for a healthy and holy family. Make Jesus Christ the foundation of your family.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What are some specific ways—either positively or negatively—your family situation (parents, their marriage, kids, siblings, etc.) has influenced you?

Are there any marriages you look up to or admire? What is it about those marriages that makes them admirable?

Read Malachi 2:13-16: Why do you think marriage is important to God?

Read Ephesians 5:1-2, 22-6:19: From these passages, what other relationship is a marriage symbolic of? In what ways?

What value does a passage like this have for you if you aren’t married?

Read Genesis 2:18-24: What does this passage tell us about the purpose of marriage in God’s kingdom?

How does a proper view of the marriage and the family affect our relationship with God? How does it affect the lives of those of us who are single?