

September 20, 2023

## The Nature of Marriage: Male and Female Covenant

### Goal for This Week

To articulate the nature of marriage and the purpose of God creating us distinctly as men and women so that we may be more transformed more into the image of the Son, from one degree of glory to another (Romans 8:29 & 3 Cor. 3:18)

### Review from Past Weeks

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Doing Theological Anthropology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God made humanity, how God judges' humanity, and how God restores humanity. Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why we must consider God primarily even when we think about humanity.

We are designed and created in the image of God so that we may have \_\_\_\_\_ and produce \_\_\_\_\_.

The end goal is to better see the beauty of the revealed Christ so we *love* Him more and *worship* Him more by the way we act ethically and the way we act within our families.

### Biblical Observations on Marriage

*Ephesians 5:22-28* – (22) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (24) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, (26) that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, (27) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (28) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. (29) For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, (30) because we are members of his body. (31) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. (32) This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

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What does this passage teach us about God and what He says about marriage?

### Special Positions to Consider on the Nature of Marriage

#### 1. Marriage as a Sacrament

*Sacramentum* is the Latin term used by Jerome in the fourth-century Vulgate to translate the Greek expression *mysterion* (“mystery”), which describes the analogy between marriage and the union of Christ and the church in Ephesians 5:32.”<sup>1</sup>

The Sacramental model today suggests the marriage is a church rite that brings about effectual grace for the married couple. It supposes that God \_\_\_\_\_ grace through the church and \_\_\_\_\_ in the sacrament.

Roots marriage in \_\_\_\_\_ law.

#### 2. Marriage as a Contract

Gary Chapman lists five characteristics of contracts.<sup>2</sup>

1. They are typically made for a limited period of time.
2. They most often deal with specific actions.
3. They are conditional upon the continued performance of contractual obligations by the other partner.
4. They are entered into for one’s own benefit.
5. They are sometimes unspoken and implicit.

Roots marriage in \_\_\_\_\_ law.

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<sup>1</sup> Andreas Köstenberger and David Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 69-70.

<sup>2</sup> Gary Chapman, *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy* (Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003), 8-10.

### 3. Marriage as a Covenant

Definition: “This position defines marriage as a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God (whether or not this is acknowledged by the married couple), normally consummated by sexual intercourse.”<sup>3</sup>

*Malachi 2:14* – “Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”

*Matthew 19:6* – “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Roots marriage in \_\_\_\_\_ law. (The authoritative divine revelation found in Scripture).

Under this covenant position on the nature of marriage, how does should our theological reflection on the nature of marriage begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?

What it means to fall in love: “It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, ‘I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne.”<sup>4</sup>

#### Implications of a Covenant View of Marriage<sup>5</sup>

What does it mean for a couple to embrace the view of marriage as a covenant?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage (Gen. 2:23-25)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage

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<sup>3</sup> Andreas Köstenberger and David Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family*, 73.

<sup>4</sup> Timothy Keller and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016), 132.

<sup>5</sup> This section is taken from Andreas Köstenberger and David Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family*, 77-78.

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**Preparation for Next Week:**

Read – <https://www.9marks.org/article/can-a-single-person-fully-image-god/> (Attached to this document.)

**Further Resources:**

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003.

Keller, Timothy and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.