

KINGDOM ESSENTIALS: MARRIAGE, PARENTING AND A GENERATIONAL VISION

“The Kind of Marriage that Manifests the Kingdom”

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

In Ephesians 5:31-32, it says,

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it [marriage] refers to Christ and the church.”

❖ **Marriage and the Passion of God**

- Marriage is a Picture of God’s Passionate Love

“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine.” (Ezekiel 16:8)

Hosea 2:14, 16, 19-20 says,

“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.” (Vs 14)

“And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ (Vs 16)

“And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.” (Vs 19)

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—**but I am talking about Christ and the church.**” (Ephesians 5:25-27, 31-32)*

- Marriage is a Picture of God’s Covenant Love

“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. Many waters cannot quench love. Neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.” (Song of Songs 8:6-7)

❖ Marriage and the Purposes of God (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24)

- General Christian Ideas of the Purpose of Marriage

- Is it Procreation?

Some Christians say marriage is for **procreation**. They stress the command to the first man and woman to *"be fruitful and increase in number"* (Genesis 1:28).

- Is it Protection?

Some Christians say marriage is for **protection**. They emphasize 1 Corinthians 7 v 9: *"It is better to marry than to burn with passion."*

- God's Covenantal Ideal for the Power in Marriage

The purpose of your marriage is a companionship and a partnership.

- Companionship

Biblical marriage is for **companionship**. And we see that this is the true purpose for marriage in Genesis 2:18, *"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"*

- Companionship Overcomes Solitude

Marriage is for companionship! God said, *"It is not good for the man to be alone."*

- Companionship Offers Service

Marriage is also for service! God said, *"I will make a helper suitable for him."*

"He brought her to the man" (Genesis 2:22)

- Companionship Our Shalom

In Song of Songs 8:10 the woman says: *"I was in his eyes as one who brings peace."*

➤ Partnership

The woman is not only a *companion* for man's alone-ness, she is a *helper* for man's service. They are partners in the task God has given humanity.

- Pro-Creation

- Re-Creation