

THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF KINGDOM: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

“Christians Combating the Current Cultural Crisis”

(Ephesians 5:22–24; Colossians 3:18; Genesis 1:28; 2:18, 20, 24)

❖ The Current Cultural Crisis

Marriage and the family are institutions under siege today, and only a return to the biblical foundation of these God-given institutions will reverse the decline of marriage and the family in our culture today.

- What Is the Family? (Genesis 2:18, 20, 24; Genesis 1:28)

The Bible defines “family” in a narrow sense as *the union of one man and one woman in matrimony which is normally blessed with one or several natural or adopted children.*

- Marriage: Contract or Covenant?

Today, marriage and the family are regularly viewed as social conventions that can be entered into and severed by the marital partners at will.

- Contract

“What therefore God has joined together let not man separate” (Matt. 19:6)

For this reason, marriage is far more than a human social contract; it is a divinely instituted covenant.

- Covenant

But what is a “covenant”? In essence, a covenant is a vow between two parties that is established before God as a witness, a vow whose permanence is ultimately safeguarded by none other than God himself. In this sense, marriage is a covenant!

- What Is Marriage?

Marriage is a covenant, a sacred bond between a man and a woman instituted by and publicly entered into before God and normally consummated by sexual intimacy. God’s plan for the marriage covenant involves at least the following five vital principles:

- The Permanence of Marriage
- The Sacredness of Marriage
- The Intimacy of Marriage
- The Mutuality of Marriage
- The Exclusiveness of Marriage

- How Did Sin Affect Marriage and the Family?

Knowing the divine ideal for marriage, and aware that marriage and the family are divine institutions, we are now able to move from God's creation of man and woman and his institution of marriage to the Fall of humanity and its negative consequences on the marriage relationship.

- Polygamy
- Divorce
- Adultery
- Homosexuality
- Sterility
- Gender Confusion

❖ **The Restoration of God's Original Design for Marriage and the Family in Christ**

The New Testament teaches that the restoration of God's original design for marriage in Christ is part of God's realignment of all things under Christ's authority and lordship. (Ephesians 1:10)

Thus marriage is not an end in itself but part of God's end-time restoration of all things in the person of Jesus Christ.

What is the biblical pattern for marriage?