

I. Intro

A. Series Overview

1. **TRC Definition:** Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church...

II. View Point

A. Biblical View of Marriage = Covenant

1. Not just a Commitment... But a covenant
2. Biblical Covenant is more a Promise.
 - a. It's an assurance
3. God promised Abram...
 - a. That He would make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky (**Gen. 15:5**)
 - b. Abraham asked God how he could be assured that this would happen. (**Gen. 15:8**)
 - c. God decided to bring Abram into covenant.

*⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. (**Gen. 15:9-10**)*

4. In covenants between equals, both parties would walk through a wall of blood to solemnize the agreement.
5. But not in this covenant (between God and Man).

*¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. (**Gen. 15:12**)*

- a. God passed between the bloody carcasses all by Himself (while Abram sat on the sidelines, unable to lift a finger or help in any way).

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, (Gen. 15:17-18a)

- 6. Abram was clear about the implications of this incident.
 - a. God is the Initiator, Creator and Administrator of every covenant that He enters.
 - b. God covenants may have conditions (where the outcome can vary depending on human obedience/disobedience).
 - i. But the arranged agreement remains on the table forever, unchanged.

B. Biblical Marriage Has Eternal Implications

- 1. All of Redemptive History is moving rapidly toward a glorious, breathtaking, beautiful wedding.

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; (Rev. 19:6-7)

- a. Photo
- b. This marriage feast will jubilantly celebrate the Bridegroom God-King (The Lamb) and His eternal union with His long-awaited Bride.

- 2. In eternity past God planned, and created for Himself a family... full of sons and daughters.

- a. Also planned an arranged marriage between His Son and a beautiful, mature Bride without spot or wrinkle.
- b. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, God the Father promised to present a Ready Bride to a Worthy King.

3. Before there was a beginning (of time and space), God saw the end of the thing.

- a. The reason God created earthly marriage was to point toward the great eternal marriage between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

III. Myth Busting

- A. Myth #1: God instituted the marriage covenant as a reaction to loneliness

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” (Gen. 2:18)

- 1. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God Almighty.
 - a. God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) was/ is in perfect communion with Himself. He's never lonely.
 - b. God never needed anything in order to feel complete and validated.

**God did not create man because He was lonely. God created man because He chose to share His all-encompassing love with another who didn't deserve it.*

- c. God wasn't lonely. Neither was Adam (in his unfallen state).
- d. Every evening (in the cool of the garden) God would sit down and personally hang out with Adam.

- B. Myth #2: God designed marriage to bring mankind happiness.

- 1. God doesn't have anything against happiness.
 - a. Yahweh is the God of delight.

- i. “God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.” - John Piper
- b. We’ve assumed the source of our pleasure and delight would be the person who sleeps in our bed and shares our last names.

2. God chose Marriage Relationship to make us more like Him.

- a. God’s ultimate will for your life is sanctification (holiness).

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (1 Thess. 3:11-13)

- b. The end game for our lives is not personal happiness, but personal and eternal holiness.

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification:... (1 Thess. 4:3a)

- 3. For centuries, Christians have viewed celibacy as the ultimate mission field to develop holiness.
 - a. The most holy thing you could do was isolate yourself and become a monk or a nun.
- 4. What if we in this generation began to look at marriage the same way that Medieval believers viewed monasteries?
 - a. What if God gave us the institution of marriage, not to make us happy.
 - i. But to make us holy?
- 5. Holiness is non-negotiable.
 - a. How/ Where we work it out this holiness can vary depending on your gift. (1 Cor. 7:7)
 - b. Some actually have the gift of singleness.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Marriage Is the Ideal Place To Develop Sermon on the Mt. Character
 - a. Go the Second Mile (Matt. 5:38-42)
 - b. Race to Go Low (Matt. 5:43-44)

- c. Remove Critical Spirit (**Matt. 7:1-5**)
- d. Forgive When Forgiveness is Unfounded (**Matt. 5:23-24**)
- B. Ultimately, We shall be like Jesus...
 - 1. Sacrificial in Love
 - 2. Patient, Kind, Longsuffering
 - 3. Fighting for the Greatness of others
 - 4. Persistent in His Perseverance
- C. Marriage is not the source of the believer's happiness.
 - 1. Marriage is simply a primary proving ground where God produces holiness in the life of the believer.