

# "God's Plan for and Satan's Attacks on Your Marriage"

\* Marriage is a **divine** institution

## I. The **DEFINITION** of Marriage

1. Biblical marriage is a covenantal relationship between **one man** and **one woman**, established by God *for a **lifetime***, where a man and a woman **commit** themselves to each other in voluntary **selflessness** for the mutual benefit of each other as they fulfill God's purpose for their lives.
2. Biblical Marriage's significance is heightened dramatically when we recognize that marriage is **intended** to **reflect** the relationship between **Christ** and His Bride, the universal **Church**.

## II. The **DESIGN** for Marriage (Genesis 2:24)

1. Marriage requires that "a man **leave** his father and mother."
2. Marriage requires an inseparable **joining together** of husband and wife throughout their lifetime
3. Marriage requires that the man and woman **become one flesh**

## III. The **PURPOSES** for Marriage

1. For **partnership**
2. For **procreation**
3. For **pleasure**
4. For **purity**
5. For **provision**
6. For **picturing** Christ and His church

## IV. The **PRACTICE** of Marriage

1. The practice of marriage requires the **filling** of the Spirit
2. The practice of marriage includes **mutual submission** to one another
3. The husband's responsibilities include:
  - a. **leading** your home **principally** (5:23)
  - b. **loving** your wife as **Christ** loves the church (5:25)

- c. Recognizing that your love for your wife is **purposeful** (5:26-27)
- d. Recognizing that **you** and your wife are **one** body (5:28)
- e. **nurturing** and **cherishing** your wife (5:29-30)
- f. Showing her **honor** (1 Pet 3:7)

4. The wife's responsibilities include:

- a. **Submitting** to her husband (5:22)
- b. **Respecting** her husband (5:33)

## V. The **ATTACKS** on Marriage

1. Regarding the **Design** for marriage:

- a. Just **ignore** God's design
- b. **Redefine** marriage
- c. Have **sex** before marriage
- d. Don't **leave** and **cleave** properly

2. Regarding the **Purpose** of marriage:

- a. Make your marriage about **me** instead of about **we**
- b. God says you are one flesh – Satan desires to make it about **two individuals**

3. Regarding the **Practice** of Marriage

- a. Role **misuse** and **abdication**
- b. The husband fails to lead **principally**
- c. The husband fails to **love** as Christ loved the church
- d. The wife fails to **submit** to her husband
- e. The wife fails to **respect** her husband
- f. They **compete** with each other instead of **help** each other
- g. One or both of the spouses become **bitter** instead of **forgiving** one another

\*How does this apply to you?