

God's Gift of Male & Female, Marriage & Sex

Eph. 5:24 "[J]ust as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ... 31 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

* **We** must look at God's gift of male & female, marriage & sex, because to just say, "No," is a _____ing battle.

Rom 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

* **God's** first gift is creating us as his _____ren.

Gen. 1:26-27 "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness' ... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"

Luke 3:38 "Adam, the son of God"

Rom. 8:14-17 "you ... received the Spirit of adoption ... [who] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ"

* **What is** God's intention toward us as his children?

Eph 3:17-19 "that you ... may ... know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God"

2Pet 1:3-4 "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature ..."

John 17:21-22 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us ... And the glory which You gave Me I have given them"

* **God** does this by allowing us to _____ticipate in his work, as we _____tate his character & _____ in his joy & glory.

* **Jesus** implies that God made us in his image, male & female, so that we could participate in _____riage and _____creation.

Mat. 19:4-6 "He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'

* **In the** spiritual and sexual union of marriage, we have the privilege of producing new human life through the bearing of children, thus participating in God's _____ional work.

Eph 5:1 "[B]e imitators of God as dear children."

1Cor 4:15 "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." ... 11:1 "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

* **It would** have been so much easier for _____ to do it himself; but he lets us participate for our _____.

Job 22:2-3 "Can a man be profitable to God? ... Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways righteous?"

Acts 17:25 "Nor is He served with human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things."

* **More** gifts & blessings: **(1)** In marriage, God gives us the privilege of learning to _____ as he does. He binds himself by _____ to us forever, and in marriage gives us the privilege of binding ourselves by _____ to another for life.

Eze. 16:8 "I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine."

Heb. 6:17-20 "God, determining to show ... the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that ... we might have strong consolation ..."

Rom. 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, ... nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mal. 2:14 "the wife of your youth ... is ... your wife by covenant"

Mat. 19:4-6 ... 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' ... Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate."

(2) God binds himself to those who correspond to him as his images, and yet as finite creatures are also very _____erent from him (Acts 17:25). In marriage, we bind ourselves to someone who corresponds to us as the image of God, and yet as a member of the opposite _____, is also very different from us—someone who is a _____ery and _____der to us.

Judges 13:18 "the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'"

Isa. 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful"

Col. 2:2-3 "attaining to all riches of ... the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ"

Prov. 30:18-19 "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin." (See also Song 4:1-8:7.)

(3) In the sexual union of man and woman in marriage, God gives us the privilege of reflecting the spiritual _____ion we were created for with God, restored by Christ in the Church.

Eph. 5:24-32 "[J]ust as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ... 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

(4) Just as spiritual life is produced only through union with _____st, even so human life is produced only through union between _____e and _____ale.

Eph 2:4-5 "God ..., because of His great love ..., even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ..."

1 Pet. 1:3 "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus"

Gen. 1:27-28 "God created man in His own image ... male and female ... Then God blessed them, and ... said ..., 'Be fruitful and multiply'"

(5) Just as the _____hold of God formed by the union of Christ & the Church is the God-designed environment for the nurture of God's spiritual children, so the _____hold formed by the union of man & woman is the God-designed environment for the nurture of natal children.

Eph. 2.19 "you are ... members of the household of God"

1 Tim. 3:15 "... the house of God, which is the church ..."

(6) In the lifelong sexual _____gamy of man & woman in marriage, we have the privilege of reflecting the eternal spiritual _____gamy of Christ to his Bride, the Church.

Mat 19:6 "What God has joined together, let no man separate."

Rom. 8:38-39 "[Nothing can] ... separate us from the love of God ..."

Deut 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart ...

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church ...

* **In all** these ways, God points to the path of _____ and _____ing, which spiritually is our union with God through Christ and the Spirit, and sexually is the union of man and woman in marriage. Just as those who impenitently depart from spiritual monogamy to the one true God are given over to spiritual _____gradation, even so those who impenitently depart from sexual monogamy in marriage are given over by God to sexual _____gradation.

Rom 1:21 "even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened ... 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another ..."

* **Any** society that prizes love & faithfulness to God will also prize love & faithfulness in _____riage, & vice versa. Any society that revels in whatever spirituality one desires will inevitably revel in the pursuit of whatever _____ one desires.

Prov 8:36 He who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

* **Male & female**, marriage & sex, are God's _____ to us. They are part of God's great "_____"! to us. But they can be damaged or ruined thru misuse, and require protection. All of God's "No's" are for protecting his "_____'s." Any departure from God's creational design is not only deeply _____ng, but deeply _____gic, for all such departures turn away from God's will, blessing, and glory.

Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honorable ... and the bed undefiled"

1Cor. 7:2-4 "The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does."

1Cor 6:13 ... the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord ... 15 ... your bodies are members of Christ ...

1Thes 4:3-8 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor ..."