

**Holy Sex**  
*Sexual Purity in a World Gone Mad*  
**2 - What is Marriage and Why Do We Still Need It?**  
*Holding onto God's Original Plan*  
**Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33**  
*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney*

**Genesis 2:25** "And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

In the midst of a paganized world, we need to recover and rediscover the fact that in the sanctity of Christian marriage, we come as close as we can get to being naked and unashamed before our Creator.

When you read the Bible you see that gender, marriage and sexuality are not just incidental. Gender is a part of God's original design, and for His glory.

- The difference between male and female reflects God's glory.
- The similarities of men and women as His image-bearers reflect God's glory.
- Their need for each other reflects God's glory!
- The satisfaction of the man in the woman reflects God's glory.
- The satisfaction of the woman in the man reflects God's glory.
- The satisfaction of God's people in the pleasures of marriage reflects God's glory.
- Living together as husband and wife in sickness and in health, till death they do part, reflects God's glory.
- This whole one-flesh relationship called 'marriage' is an expression and a reflection of God's glory!

When you lose sight of the glory of God in our gender and marriage and sexuality, and you bring it down to the lowest common denominator and make it exclusively about us, with no thought of our Creator God, then you're left with a raw, ugly, animalistic reduction of something God designed to shine and thrive in the context of the greater drama of God's glory.

The glory of God is essential to our understanding of marriage!

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

What stands out the most about Paul's approach to marriage is that Christ is the reference point for all our actions in marriage.

- v. 22** - Wives should submit to their husbands "as to the Lord"
- v. 23** – For the husband is head of the wife, "as also Christ is head of the church"
- v. 24** –Therefore "just as" the church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their own husbands
- v. 25** - Husbands love your wives "just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it"
- v. 29** - Husbands should nourish and cherish wives, "just as Christ does the church"

Apart from Christ we can't do this thing called marriage.

Our gender, sexuality and marriages are to be a reflection of God's glory! When you lose sight of that, and just keep focusing on yourself, you will never experience the riches, the depth, the pleasure and the joy that God wants to give you in your marriage.

Marriage is woven and wrapped around Christ and what He's already done!

**Eph. 5:31-32** “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.”

The purpose of marriage is to put our Savior and the Gospel on display by the way a husband and wife relate to each other. God intended for marriage to be a billboard that promotes and displays the richness and goodness of His Son Jesus Christ.

At its best, Paul says that the love of a Christian marriage reflects the love of Christ for the church.

“The gospel doesn't need family values to flourish. Real faith often thrives when it is in sharp contrast to the culture around it. That's why the gospel rocketed out of the first-century from places such as Ephesus and Philippi and Corinth and Rome. *(These were not hot-houses for family Christian values!)*

None of these cities had moral systems that promoted healthy marriages. In fact, the very contrast between Christian marriages and the wreckage of pagan marriages extolled the virtue of Christianity. One respectable philosopher, writing in an era of moral chaos that included slave concubines and easy divorce, even said in a wedding speech that a husband's adultery should be viewed as a sign of respect for his wife: "It is respect for her which leads him to share his debauchery, licentiousness, and wantonness with another woman." That was the philosopher, Plutarch, in a speech titled, "Advice to Bride and Groom." And it was just this sort of nonsense that strengthened the appeal of Christianity.”

(‘How Should Same-Sex Marriage Change the Church’s Witness?’ by Russell Moore on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, <http://www.russellmoore.com/2013/06/26/how-should-same-sex-marriage-change-the-churchs-witness/>)

It’s time for Christians to stop limping along in their marriage – looking like everybody else!

As we head into this next decade, put cultivating a vibrant marriage at the top of your ‘To Do’ list. Too many Christians are building their careers, chasing after hobbies and living for their kids – while their marriage is on life-support. That needs to change!

And too many Christian singles are throwing garbage and toxic waste out onto their future marriage by selfishly indulging themselves in pleasures now that are going to turn into heartache later!

Married couples – it’s your marriage that is your most powerful picture of Christ and the Gospel.

Christian singles – it’s your sexual purity as a single that is your most powerful picture of Christ and the Gospel.

### Questions to Consider...

- If you’re married: what do the people closest to you think of Jesus, the His church and the gospel based on the snapshot of your marriage?
- If you’re single: what do people think of Christ based on your sexual purity as a single? Do they see in you a satisfaction in Christ that He is enough?