

Genesis - Marriage

- Introduction
 - Definitions (MWCD 10th Edition)
 - Marriage: The mutual relation of husband and wife.
 - Marriage: The institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family.
 - Husband: A male partner in a marriage.
 - Wife: A female partner in a marriage.
 - Key Principles
 - Marriage is, by definition, a union between one man and one woman.
 - In marriage, the two become one.
- Development
 - When God created Adam He created both Adam and Eve [Gen 1:26-28].
 - Eve's body was fashioned from part of Adam's body (his rib and flesh) [Gen 2:22].
 - Although Adam had soul life breathed into him by God [Gen 2:7], Eve did not indicating that her soul life came from Adam.
 - Because the two (male and female) came from one, marriage is necessarily the coming together of two (male and female) into one [Gen 2:24].
 - Any other definition of marriage denies the divine origin of the institution of marriage.
 - Jesus confirmed this with his answer to the Pharisees concerning divorce [Matt 19:3-6].
 - Adam and Eve were given work assignments to accomplish together (as one).
 - They were to rule over the animals, be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it [Gen 1:26, 28].
 - They were also supposed to image God [Gen 1:27].
 - Eve was to be Adam's helper in all of these work assignments [Gen 2:18; 1 Cor 11:8-9].
 - In order to accomplish these tasks as one, it is necessary for husband and wife to depart from parental submission [Gen 2:24].
 - This does not mean to abandon or forsake their parents [1 Tim 5:4].
 - Honoring their parents as a united couple is expected [Ex 20:12; Matt 15:4], but submission to their authority is no longer proper [Eph 6:1].
 - The sexual union between husband and wife is an extension of their soul intimacy, but also essential for the "be fruitful and multiply" task [Gen 2:24].
 - In marriage the husband is supposed to teach and lead his wife [1 Cor 14:34-35; 1 Tim 2:11-12].
 - God expected Adam to teach and lead Eve in this way in the garden.

- Adam failed in both of these as Eve did not know God's prohibition [Gen 2:16-17 cf. Gen 3:2-3] and she led him in eating from the tree [Gen 3:6].
 - The failures which led to the fall affected both partners in the marriage...
 - The woman's childbirth became painful [Gen 3:16].
 - The man's work became toil [Gen 3:17-19].
 - Despite these effects of the fall, living out the proper roles in marriage brings blessing.
 - Submission to Christ is critical for a marriage to function as God designed.
 - If the husband does not submit to Christ he will not be able to properly function as the head of the marriage [1 Cor 11:3].
 - If the wife does not submit to Christ she will not be able to properly function in submission to her husband [Eph 5:22; Col 3:18].
 - Husbands and wives have the blessing of being able to portray Christ and the Church.
 - The husband should love his wife with a sacrificial love like the Savior [Eph 5:23, 25].
 - This love should provide nourishment and comfort for his wife as Christ nourishes and comforts the Church [Eph 5:25-29].
 - As the body exalts the Head, so the wife should support her husband [Eph 5:22, 24].
 - ❖ Her help supplies what he lacks [Gen 2:18].
 - ❖ His work assignments require wisdom [Prov 31:1-9] and her support will be a tremendous blessing for him [Prov 31:10-31].
 - ❖ For this to work he must trust her [Prov 31:10-12] and build her up with praise [Prov 31:28-31].
 - Marriage began with Adam and Eve, but the blessing of portraying Christ and the Church is a "mystery" of the Church [Eph 5:28-32].
 - Husbands and wives serve as heirs together of the grace of life [1 Pet 3:7].
 - A wife's submission to her husband can win over her carnal/unbelieving husband [1 Pet 3:1-6].
 - A husband walking in fellowship will be an understanding leader of his wife [1 Pet 3:7].
 - When both husband and wife are walking by means of the Spirit, they will inherit the blessings of their fellow heirship [1 Pet 3:7-9].
 - Marriage is to be honored and God will judge those who defile it [Heb 13:4].
- Conclusions
- God instituted marriage to be between one man and one woman for their mutual blessing.
 - Just as the one became two when God created Eve, the two become united as one in marriage.
 - The divine institution of marriage is designed to be a blessing for all of mankind – believers and unbelievers alike.

- Marriage was instituted from the beginning, but today we have the blessing of portraying Christ and the Church in marriage.
- In order to do this, the proper roles of headship and submission must be in place.
 - The headship of the husband does not mean lording it over his wife.
 - The submission of the wife does not mean she is inferior to her husband.
 - For believers, submission to Christ is necessary to have the capacity to fulfill the proper roles.
 - For unbelievers, respect for the institution of marriage and its role in providing a benefit to society is required.
- For a marriage to be successful, godly attitudes and behavior are required.
 - Sacrificial love.
 - Mutual respect.
 - Understanding one another.
 - Honoring one another.
 - Practicing hospitality toward one another.
 - Serving the Lord in all things.
 - Being of the same mind.
 - Rejoicing in hope.
 - Persevering in trials and tribulation.
 - Devotion to prayer.
 - Not being prideful.
 - Not paying back evil for evil.
 - Maintaining an attitude of reconciliation.
 - Supply each others needs.
 - Be diligent to maintain fellowship.
- Believers today can anticipate an even greater marriage.
 - The Bride of Christ will be presented to the Bridegroom in glory [Eph 5:27; 2 Cor 11:2].
 - The wedding will take place in heaven and the wedding supper will be announced in heaven [Rev 19:7-9] and transpire on earth [Matt 22:2-14].