

**Reading:** Genesis 1:27,28; 2:18-24

**Topic:** A God Designed Marriage

**Introduction:** Marriage was not an after thought of God, but it was His design and \_\_\_\_\_ for mankind to be \_\_\_\_\_ and to multiply upon the earth through this institution.

## I. THE FIRST MARRIAGE:

### A. Male & Female:

1. God created man in His own \_\_\_\_\_ and the Word of God makes it clear that the plan of God was for one man and one \_\_\_\_\_ to join together to form the marriage bond. Gen. 2:24
2. It was Almighty God who stated that it was not a \_\_\_\_\_ thing for a man to be \_\_\_\_\_ so the Lord made a \_\_\_\_\_ to be a suitable partner for the man. Gen. 2:18

### B. Blessed By God:

1. God's first act for the new married couple was to \_\_\_\_\_ them and that is the will and plan of God for every marriage – that it will be \_\_\_\_\_ by God Himself! Gen. 1:28
2. When both the man and the woman in the marriage have the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ as the number one thing in their lives – then the \_\_\_\_\_ of God will follow. Mt. 6:33

## II. A CONTRACT OR A COVENANT:

### A. Contract:

1. Prominent lawyers have described a contract as – a document ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ on the premise of distrust between two parties where each \_\_\_\_\_ is primarily concerned only with his or her own best interests and wishes to protect them.
2. A number of married couples in this modern era do prepare and \_\_\_\_\_ a marriage contract prior to the actual marriage ceremony, especially if \_\_\_\_\_ have significant assets going into the marriage.

### B. Covenant:

1. A covenant is a binding agreement between \_\_\_\_\_ parties who, upon entering into said agreement do focus on striving to best meet the \_\_\_\_\_ of and please the other partner in the covenant.
2. Whereas a contract is to a degree, selfish, a covenant on the other \_\_\_\_\_ is selfless and does not have an exit strategy that provides an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ when things get difficult.

### C. Marriage Is A Covenant:

1. Marriage was planned by God to be a covenant, not a contract, where a man and a \_\_\_\_\_ would enter into a union in order to not just \_\_\_\_\_ themselves but seek to \_\_\_\_\_ their partner. I Cor. 7:33
2. If the marriage is only regarded as a contract and not a covenant it will lead to \_\_\_\_\_ behavior on the part of the participants and eventually will lead to \_\_\_\_\_ and trouble.
3. When the understanding of the covenant relationship enters into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the man and woman then there will be a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment to the marriage and the dedication to keep one another until death does the parting. Mt. 19:4-6

### III. IMPORTANT TO REALIZE:

#### **A. Do Not Rely On Feelings:**

1. When a man and a woman first fall in \_\_\_\_\_, a lot of emotion and feeling is involved in the relationship, and it is expressed in various ways – flowers, gifts, etc. Song of Sol. 2:4
2. This phase of the relationship is the \_\_\_\_\_ love, where just the thought or the sight of one another causes the heart to beat \_\_\_\_\_ and puts a song in the heart. Song of Sol. 1:2
3. At the beginning of every marriage, that romantic high feeling \_\_\_\_\_ for a while but when the realities of life settle upon the couple, the high feelings will not be so \_\_\_\_\_ as before.
4. It is extremely important to remember that \_\_\_\_\_ is not a feeling, though feelings and emotions are involved, but \_\_\_\_\_ is more than just feeling – it is revealed by actions and behavior. I Cor. 13:4,5
5. True \_\_\_\_\_ is commitment to making the marriage relationship work as each seeks to do their best to please the other.

#### **B. Husband's Responsibilities:**

1. The Word of God states plainly that the husband's primary responsibility in the marriage is to \_\_\_\_\_ his wife and it states this more than \_\_\_\_\_ time in the Scriptures. Col. 3:19
2. The Word of God further states that this \_\_\_\_\_ for his wife is to be a sacrificial \_\_\_\_\_, which is loving by denying his own \_\_\_\_\_ in order to help his wife. Eph. 5:25
3. The Scripture states that a husband needs to have a \_\_\_\_\_ of the wife, and to understand that she is created differently than he is and she is called the \_\_\_\_\_ vessel but not the inferior vessel. I Pt. 3:7

#### **C. Wife's Responsibilities:**

1. The Word of God states that the wife's responsibility in the marriage is to \_\_\_\_\_ herself to her husband, which means that she is to realize and understand her husband's role and responsibility as the protector and \_\_\_\_\_ in the home. Eph. 5:22,23
2. The word \_\_\_\_\_ here in the Scripture carries with it the connotation of \_\_\_\_\_, which is something that helps a husband to feel \_\_\_\_\_ when he knows that his wife is supporting him in his hard work to provide for and support his family. Eph. 5:33

#### **D. Communication:**

1. As much as it may seem that two married people living in the same \_\_\_\_\_ and sleeping in the same bed should have no \_\_\_\_\_ of communication, unfortunately difficulties do arise.
2. There must be time for a husband and wife to \_\_\_\_\_ with each other, preferably alone with no interruptions, and to be open and \_\_\_\_\_ about their feelings.
3. When difficulties and trials come to a home, the best thing to do is to \_\_\_\_\_ to God and then have a time to sit down and \_\_\_\_\_ together about the situation.
4. Sometimes in a difficult situation it is \_\_\_\_\_ to seek out the help of a good spiritual counsellor or pastor to help to get through the present circumstance. Remember, asking for \_\_\_\_\_ is not a sign of weakness but a sign of wisdom.

**CONCLUSION:** Marriage is a God-given institution and it can become either a \_\_\_\_\_ or a battlefield depending on whether the man and \_\_\_\_\_ choose to put themselves first or God first.