

## Marriage— When One Plus One Equals One

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25

### A. Introduction

### B. A Brief Theology Of Marriage, Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25

*Premise: The primary function of men and women and of their relationship in marriage is to be a picture of who God is and how He desires to relate to His creation.*

1. Our personal identity or self-concept (as a person and as a man or a woman), the nature of relationships, and our purpose in life, can only be fully understood when we understand that we were made “in the image and likeness of God.”
2. We were designed to \_\_\_\_\_ !
3. The distinction between male and female is found in the *manner* in which they fulfill the functions of displaying the image of God. In other words, the essential issue is not value or worth nor function or activity but *role* or relationship.
4. In the Bible, the family’s significance is not found in its role as a biological, developmental, social, economic, or other structure but in its role as a religious community.

### C. Ephesians 5:22-33 — The Universal Order Of Subordination.

1. Context
2. 5:21, universal submission/subordination
3. 5:22-24, the submission of the wife to her husband is for theological reasons—to picture how the church should respond to Christ. Subordination is thus not designed to produce total dependence (of the woman to the man) or total independence (of the man from the woman) but interdependence of the man and the woman that leads to unity as a couple and community in the church. Subordination does not find its origin in force (male domination) or in bargain (economic agreement) but in choice by the woman. Subordination is not for the benefit of the head (man) or the subordinate (woman) but for the benefit of unity (man and woman). Thus, subordination is the voluntary giving up of my rights to accomplish a higher purpose.
  - a. Philippians 2:1-11 (compare to John 13:12-17)
  - b. Titus 2:4-6; 1 Timothy 5:13-16 especially v. 14
  - c. Proverbs 31
4. 5:25-33, headship means that there is a continuous effort using every available means (i.e., “a protective and developmental love”) to develop the subordinate one to fullness or maturity—that the image of God may be fully displayed. Thus, headship is the voluntary giving up of my rights to accomplish a higher purpose.
  - a. 1 Peter 3:7
  - b. 1 Timothy 3:2-5; Titus 1:6

### D. Conclusion