

Today's Scripture: **Genesis 1 & 2**

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us....always the most revealing thing about the church is her idea of God, just as the most significant message is what she says about him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech" **A.W. Tozer "The Knowledge of the Holy"**

Marriages were Created to Reveal God

5 Foundational Principles of Marriage

1. Two Genders Equally & Fully Image God (Gen 1:26-27)

A *DISTINCT* plurality vs *DUPLICATE* plurality

2. Marriage = Two Distinct Genders Covenanted to Each Other for Life (Gen 2:18, 24)

3. Role Distinctions in Marriage Reveal God (Gen 2:7, 21-22)

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

1Tim. 2:12-13

4. Marriage Involves a New Alligience & a Lifetime Commitment (Gen 2:24 a&b)

"...to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, to love, honor, cherish and forsaking all others til death do us part" **Book of Common Prayer Marriage Vows**

5. Sex is a Sublime Gift Reserved for Marriage Alone (Gen 2:24 c)

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. **Eph. 5:31-32***

*When Paul wanted to tell the Ephesians about marriage, he did not just hunt around for a helpful analogy and suddenly think that “Christ and the church” might be a good teaching illustration. No, it was much more fundamental than that: Paul saw that when God designed the original marriage He already had Christ and the church in mind. This is one of God’s great purposes in marriage: to picture the relationship between Christ and his redeemed people forever!” **George W Knight, Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood** p. 175*