



**REDEEMER**

Presbyterian Church | PCA

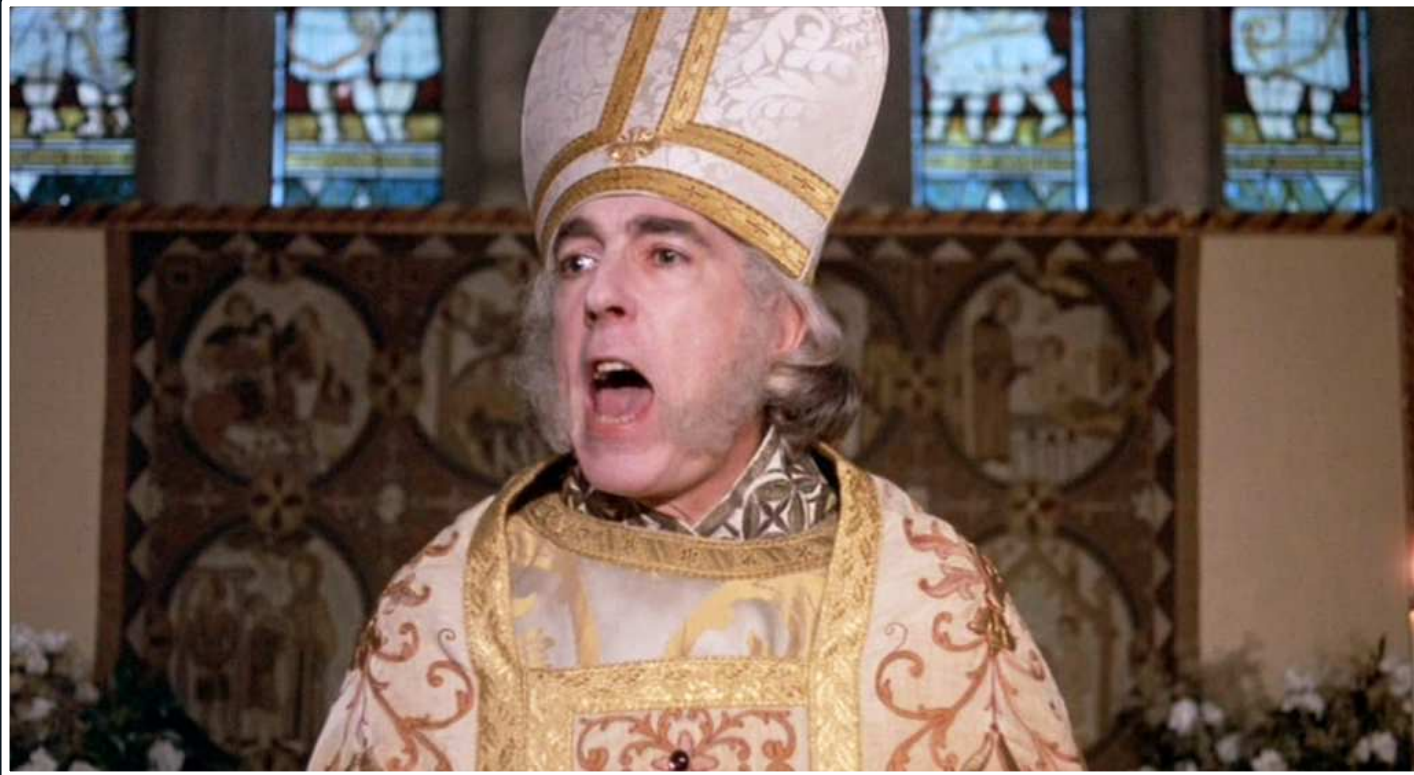
**COUNTER  
CULTURE**

**FOLLOWING CHRIST  
IN AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGE**

*A Profound Mystery: The Gospel and Marriage*

# Marriage . . .

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. . . is what  
brings us  
together  
today.





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# COUNTER CULTURE

FOLLOWING CHRIST  
IN AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGE

A Profound Mystery: The Gospel and Marriage

# Romans 12:1-2

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I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



# Main Message

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In whatever marital status we find ourselves—married, single and never married, separated, divorced, widowed, etc.—we are called to glorify Jesus Christ in this present evil age.



# Questions

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# Marriage Defined: WCF XXIV par. 1 and 2

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Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.

Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.



# Christian Marriage

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Christian marriage, designed and defined by God, is a one-flesh, covenantal union between one man and one woman, intended for life, for the mutual benefit of husband and wife, for their service to the world and the church, for the glory of God, and for the reflection of the union between Jesus Christ and his Bride, the church.





# What about the culture?

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- Designed and defined by God
- One flesh
- Covenantal
- One man/one woman
- Intended for life
- Mutual benefit
- Children
- Glory of God/Picture of Redemption



# Questions

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# Purpose of Marriage

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# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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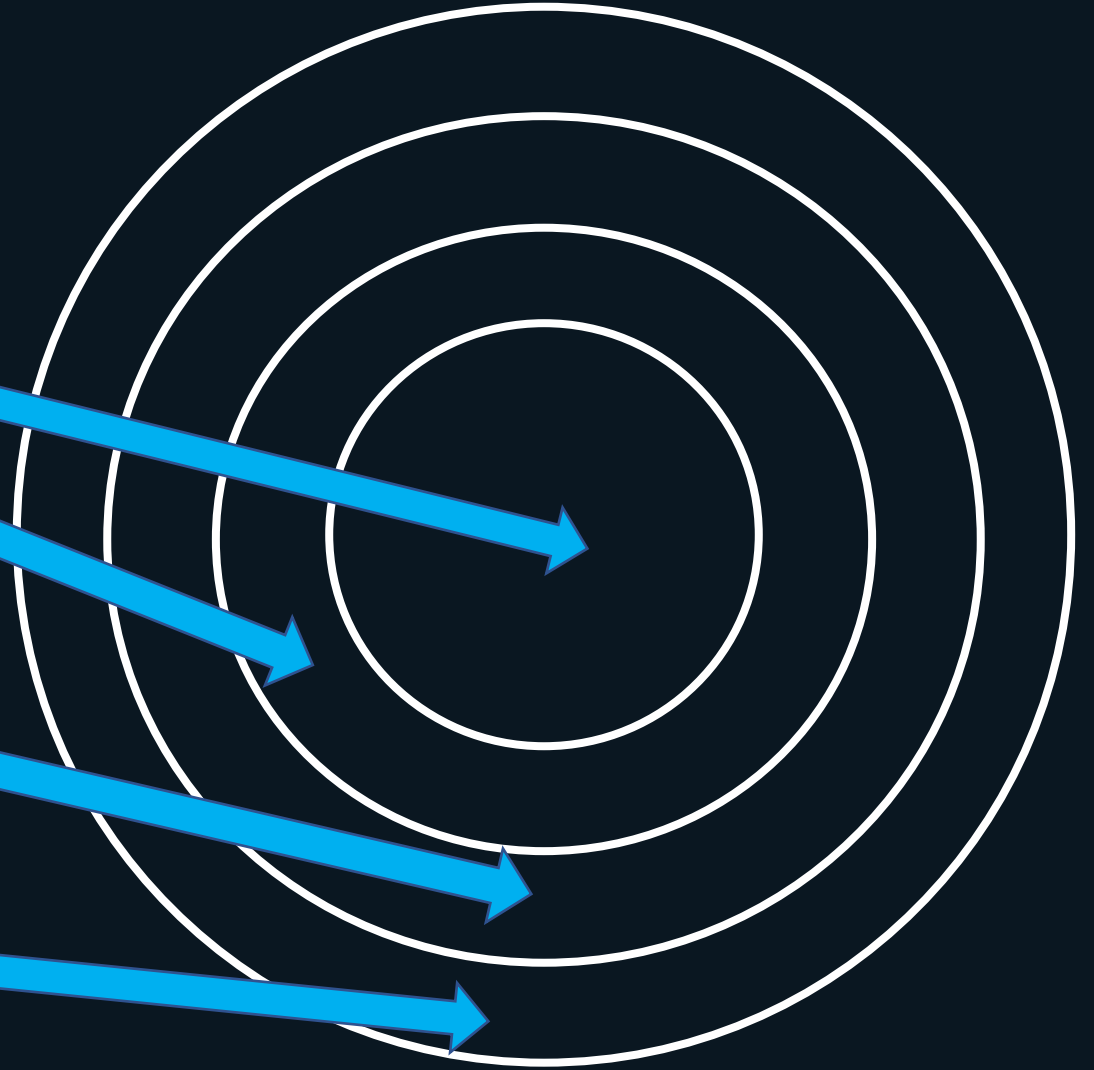
1. Take joy and delight in one another.
2. Tend the garden together.
3. Transform us into the image of Christ.
4. Typify the union the Church has with her Groom, Jesus Christ.



# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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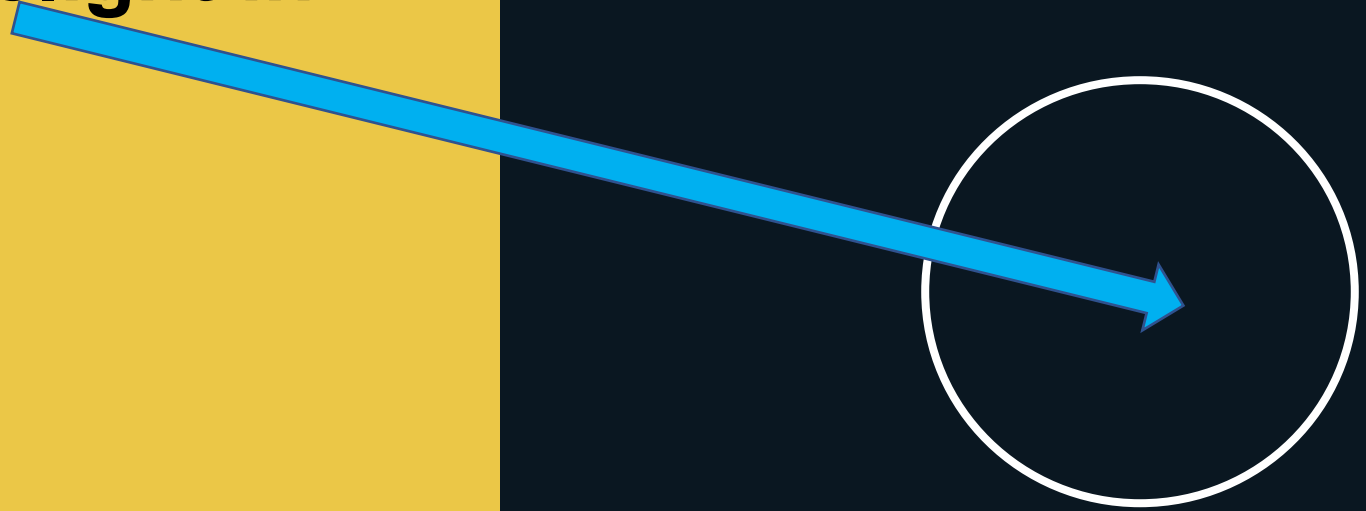
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# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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**1. Take joy and delight in one another.**



# Marital Delight: Genesis 2:23

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“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”

(Gen. 2:23)



# Marital Delight: Genesis 2:24-25

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Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(Gen. 2:23)





# Marital Delight

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For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you (Isaiah 62:5).

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days  
of your vain life that he has given you under the  
sun, because that is your portion in life and in your  
toil at which you toil under the sun (Ecc. 9:9).



# Marital Delight

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Let your fountain be blessed,  
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,  
a lovely deer, a graceful doe (Prov. 5:18-19).

Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful  
(Song 1:16).

The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (1 Cor. 7:3-4).



# Questions

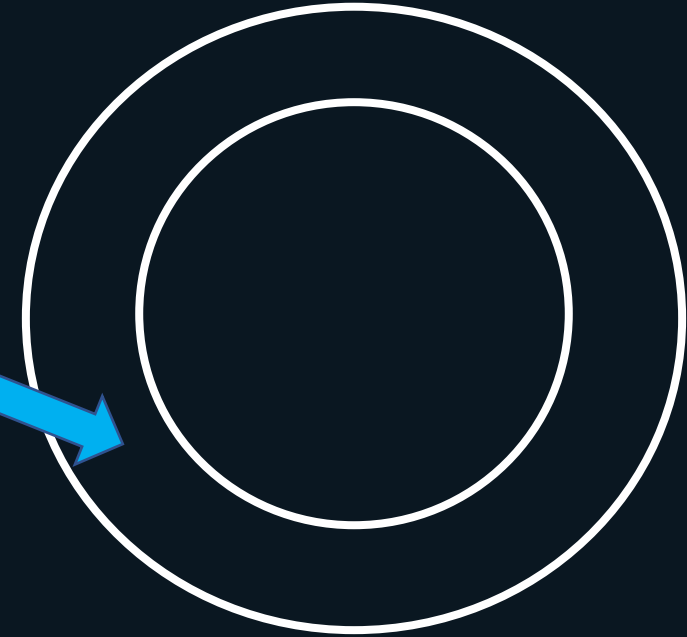
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# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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1. Take joy and delight in one another.
- 2. Tend the garden together.**



# Genesis 1:26-31

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<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



# Genesis 2:15-20

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<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it.** <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat<sup>[d]</sup> of it you shall surely die.”

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for<sup>[e]</sup> him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed<sup>[f]</sup> every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam<sup>[g]</sup> there was not found a helper fit for him.



# Cultural Mandate

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- Be fruitful and multiply.
- Fill the earth and subdue it.
- Take dominion over creation.
- Work in the garden/tend the garden.



# Cultural Mandate

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Populate

Rule

Tend to the world





# Cultural Mandate

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- The mandate given to the first Adam in the Covenant of Works can only be rightly understood by the work of the second Adam in the Covenant of Grace.
- Our purpose as the image of God can only rightly be understood by considering that we're being re-made into the image of God in Jesus Christ.
- We can only rightly care for creation if we're part of God's re-creation in Jesus Christ.



# Cultural Mandate

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- Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth is less about a population boom than it is about making disciples—by joining the church in its making of disciples. By raising godly children if we're able.
- Take dominion over the created order. This has less to do with “Christianizing” culture than it does with submitting to the kingship of Jesus Christ—and teaching others to do so—until all things are placed under his feet and every knee bows to him and every tongue confesses his Lordship.
- Work in the garden. This has less to do with agriculture and more to do with pursuing whatever vocation God calls us to for his glory.



# Questions

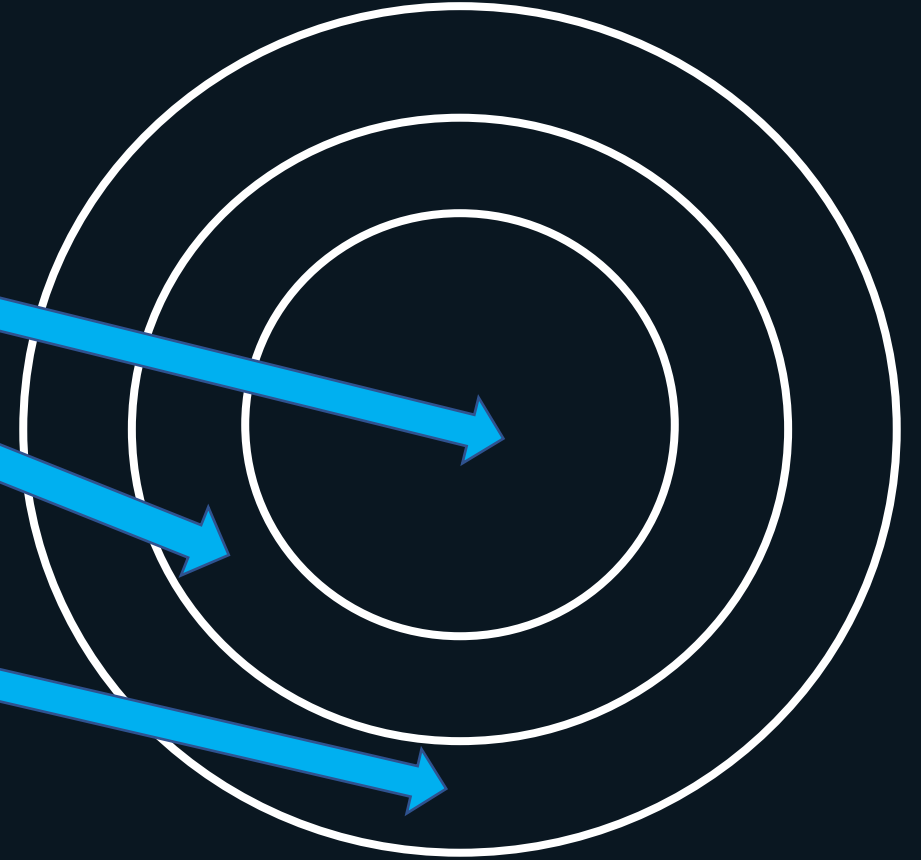
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# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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1. Take joy and delight in one another.
2. Tend the garden together.
3. **Transform us into the image of Christ**



# Questions

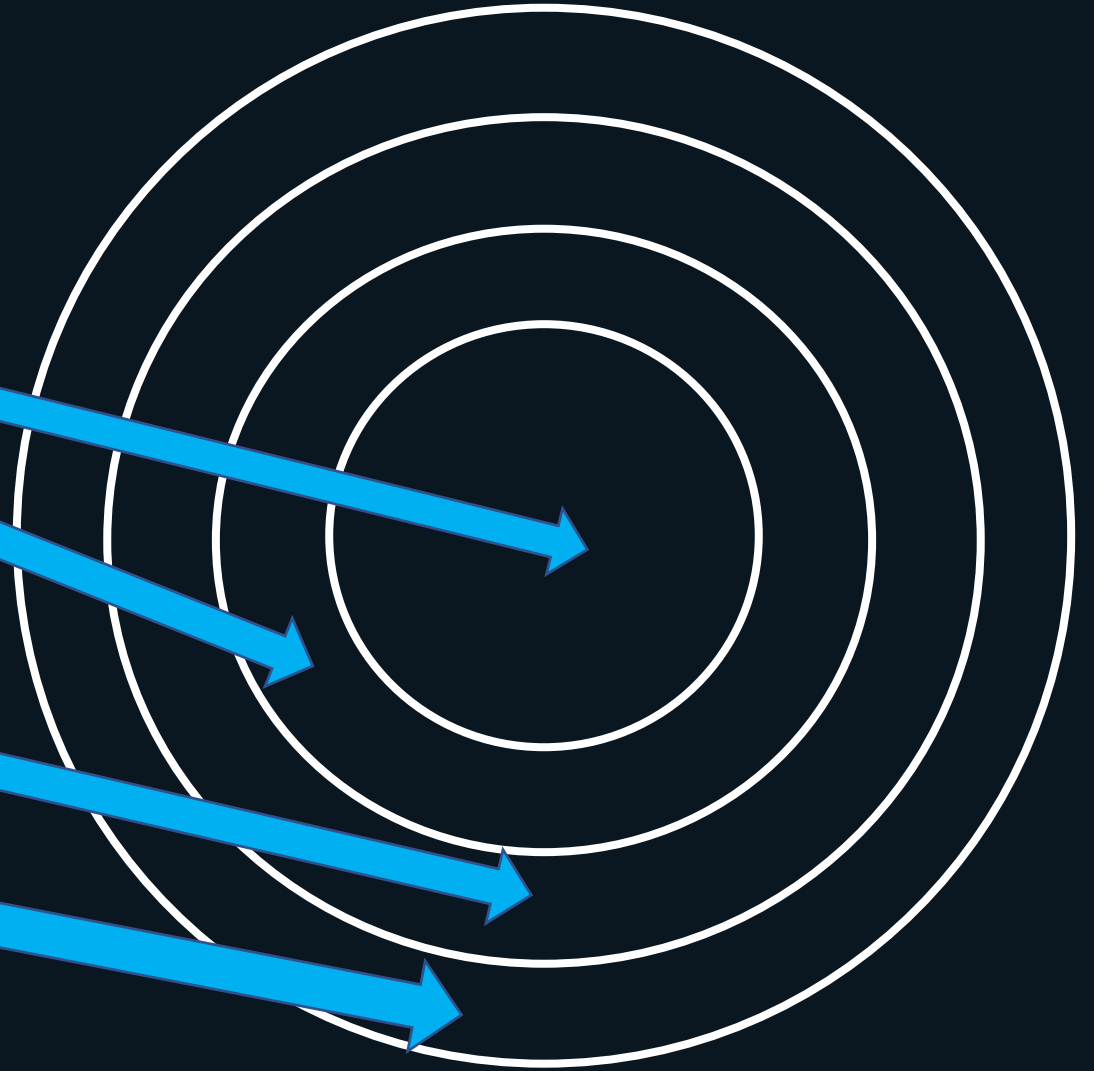
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# Fourfold Purpose of Marriage

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4. **Typify the union the Church has with her Groom, Jesus Christ.**



# Eph. 5:22-33

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<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



# Marriage Roles

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## ***Headship/Submission***

Husband: Loving, serving, sacrificial leadership

Wife: Respectful support of his leadership

## ***Ontology/Economy***

Ontology: Equal in image, dignity, depravity, salvation

Economy: Different in how they relate and in their primary duties to one another.





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# Questions

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# Main Message

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In whatever marital status we find ourselves—married, single and never married, separated, divorced, widowed, etc.—we are called to glorify Jesus Christ in this present evil age.



# Marriage Meditations: Married Couples

Never underestimate the encouragement your marriage can be to the body of Christ:

How you love and serve one another. How you speak to one another. Your hospitality. How you raise your children. And so, as you go about the hard work of building and strengthening your marriage, know that it creates ripples that reach out to those around you—in the church and in the world.



# Marriage Meditations: Singles

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Never underestimate the encouragement your singleness can be to the body of Christ:

How you exhibit godly patience. How you serve the body. How you pursue holiness even in your singleness.



# Marriage Meditations: Broken Marriages

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Never underestimate the encouragement your situation can be to the body of Christ:

Your godly perseverance through bitter providence. Your wise and others-centered use of your time and your gifts. Your empathy with others who hurt.



# Marriage Meditations: For All of Us

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Never forget that no matter what our marital status is, and no matter how much we fail, there is one Groom who is always faithful to his Bride. Our Lord Jesus Christ will never break his vows to us. He will never be unfaithful. He keeps all his promises.



## Eph. 5:25b-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.





# Questions

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