

## **“God’s Plan for A Great Marriage”**

Greg Wendschlag May 31, 2020

*"So God created man in His own image...He created them male and female. The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him...Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, "This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:27 - 2:25*

### **Marriage is a Holy Covenant**

*"Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because He no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant." Mal 2:13-14*

1. Initiated by a promise - Wedding vows
2. Bound by conditions - I will leave, cleave and become one with you
3. Certified by blood - The first sexual relationship
4. Verified by a sign - The wedding token/ring or offspring

*Marriage is an irrevocable commitment of unconditional love toward and imperfect person forever.*

### **Implications of the Covenant Marriage**

- Marriage is intended for life. Mal. 2:16
- Sex outside of marriage is a violation of the covenant. Matt. 5:27-30; Matt. 5:19
- Marriage is reserved for one man and one woman. Gen. 2:23-25; 1 Cor. 6:9; Rom. 1:18-32

### **A Covenant Marriage is a God-Centered Marriage**

Man-centered marriage - we will maintain our marriage as long as our earthly comforts, desires and expectations are met.

God-centered marriage - we will preserve our marriage because it brings glory to God and points the world to a reconciling creator.

1. See yourself pleasing God as you love your spouse.

*"So we make it our aim to please Him." 2 Cor. 5:9*

2. Realize you must die to your wants constantly.

*“Those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Cor. 5:15*

3. See your spouse as the one Christ died for.

*“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view” 2 Cor. 5:16*