

Genesis 2:24-25 (King James Version)

²⁴Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. ²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Marriage is God's idea and He is the one who instituted it. Because of this, we should look to God for the principles of marriage.

- I. The nature of marriage
 - a. Marriage is a covenant – A covenant is an agreement between two parties that define the relationship between one another. A marriage covenant defines the relationship between a husband and a wife. Each party properly understands both of their privileges and responsibilities. Malachi 2:14. It is a covenant that makes a man and woman husband and wife. A lifelong covenant which we may not break at our own accord. What keeps a marriage together is commitment. God Himself has determined what the vows of marriage are; it is not for us to come up with our own.
- II. The Terms of Marriage (Verse 24)
 - a. A heterosexual covenant – God created woman to be the marriage partner for man.
 - b. An exclusive covenant – A covenant between one man and one woman. Parents are to be excluded, a man shall leave his father and his mother. Parents are always to be loved and honored. Once you get married, your husband or wife becomes the most important person in your life. A marriage covenant must have a leaving in part of the children, and a letting go of the parents. Other partners are to be excluded in the relationship also.
 - c. A binding covenant – and shall cleave unto his wife. You are promising in a marriage covenant that you will be faithful regardless of what happens, better or worse.
 - d. A unifying covenant – and they shall be one flesh. Our whole thinking about ourselves changes... no longer you and me, but we. Joined together, physically, emotionally, etc. The unification of two people becoming one is a process, and not an event. There was nothing to hide between Adam and Eve when they were first joined together. The division came between them after they sinned. As the years of marriage go by, you can be more open and transparent, and it is then that you experience the complete open nakedness with each other.

Understand what you have entered into with your marriage covenant, or understand the principles behind marriage if you are seeking to enter into it. Our Lord Jesus has purchased for Himself a bride, and these are the terms upon which He marries us. He has taken us away from our father the devil, cleaved to us with an irrevocable covenant, and Jesus and us are growing closer and closer every day until there will be a perfect correspondence of our character with His character at the great marriage supper of The Lamb.