

• **Simple observations from Genesis 1-2 on God’s original design & purpose for marriage:**

- God created man in His image — personality, communicative, emotion
- God designed gender [only 2 fixed genders]: Male and Female.
- God told the man and the woman to be fruitful & multiply
- God provided a helper for Adam
- God gave Adam headship & authority over the woman.
- Man was to love, work, protect, nurture & enjoy his wife.
- God designed sex to be enjoyed with deep knowledge & no shame (pre-fall!)
- All sex & intimacy is to occur within the covenant of marriage alone.
- The first & foundational institution that God ever designed is heterosexual, monogamous, permanent marriage.

Quite simply: Marriage is for:

1. Companionship (Prov 2.17)
2. Procreation (Gen 2.18-25)
3. Pleasure (Prov 5/ Song of Songs)
4. Sanctification (Eph 5.25-27)
5. God’s Glory (Eph 5.31-32) — *“Marriage is to be a walking sermon demonstrating Christlike love!”*

THESIS — In Ephesians 5:31-33, I will give 3 lessons for husbands on how to love & lead & serve in the marriage...

I. HUSBAND: CLING EXCLUSIVELY TO YOUR WIFE! (31)

1. **LEAVE!** — *Cut The Cord!*
2. **CLEAVE!** — *Cement the Relationship!*
3. **WEAVE!** — *Celebrate the Oneness!*

II. HUSBAND: PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL WITH YOUR MARRIAGE! (32)

- **Marriage is about Christ & The Church**

If the relationship of Christ and His Church is central & preeminent & if marriage points to this, then...

1. Only a True Christian can really understand the truest, deepest meaning of marriage.
2. No one who is a Christian should ever marry (or date/court) a person who is *NOT* a Christian.
3. No marriage will ever reach its great purpose & design unless those united in marriage pursue it according to God’s Word, following Christ’s love, and for the great end of God’s glory.

Something **central** to a God-glorifying & God-pointing marriage is **dealing with sin biblically**.

Parallels between the gospel (Christ & His love for His Church) and marriage:

- Christ loved the Church & gave himself for her // **in this same way**, the husband is to love his wife & give himself for her.
- The Church submits to Christ with obedient love // **in this same way**, the wife must submit to her husband with obedient love.
- The husband and wife become ONE in UNION with one another // **so also** Christ and His Church are ONE in union with each other
- The marriage is a COVENANT-BOND between the husband & wife // **so also** the relationship between Christ & the Church is a COVENANT-BOND.
- The relationship of Christ & the Church is permanent / unbreakable // **in the same way**, the marriage between a husband and wife is designed to be PERMANENT and UNBREAKABLE.

Your marriage is a sermon. So, how are you preaching? And, **what** are you preaching by your marriage?

III. HUSBAND: RESOLVE INDIVIDUALLY TO LOVE YOUR WIFE! (33)

1. your marriage must find its **blueprint** in the Word of God!
2. your marriage must find its **home** in the church of Jesus Christ!
3. your marriage must find its **joy** in the character of God!
4. your marriage must find its **hope** in the gospel of grace!

Psalm 105.4 — “Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually!”