

Marriage – A Reflection of God

S.R. Genesis 2:20 - 24

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Introduction

- A. In 2019: Drew Brees – NFL football quarterback publicly supported the “Take Your Bible to School Day” on Thursday, October 3rd.
 - 1. Problem: This idea is promoted by Focus on the FAMILY.
 - 2. Problem: The LGBTQ has a different agenda than Family as God describes it in the Bible.
 - 3. Drew and his wife Brittany have four children.
- B. There are two basic views of what marriage is about.
 - 1. One view – certainly the dominant view in our culture – is that marriage is about personal happiness.
 - a. Christ presents a different perspective.
 - 2. Marriage is fundamentally about God.
 - a. Marriage is a reflection of the nature of God, marriage is modeled after the love of God, and marriage is the result of the work of God.

I. A Reflection of the Nature of God

- A. In a sense, all of us reflect the nature of God, because – as the opening chapter of Genesis says, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’” (Genesis 1:26).
- B. But there’s more. This special status as image-bearers of God is not just simply a matter of our humanity; it is reflected in our creation as **male and female: (Genesis 1:27; 2:24)**
- C. Man and woman are distinct, and yet in marriage, they are united in an inseparable bond; they become one flesh.
 - 1. And that relationship, in which they are two, but they are really one, reflects the **nature of God**.
 - 2. As the story of Scripture unfolds, we learn that while God is one, he exists as **Father, Son, and Spirit**, who dwell together in a perfect and **inseparable union** of eternal love.
- D. When a man and woman begin their life together in marriage, the two becoming one, are a reflection, an image, of the deep mystery of the love of the **Father, Son, and Spirit**.

II. A Model of the Love of God

- A. Marriage is also modeled after the **love of God**. In the New Testament, Christ's love for the church is portrayed in terms of marriage, as the apostle Paul says:
 1. (Ephesians 5:22, 25).
 2. A wife's devotion to embrace her husband's leadership, and a husband's devotion to sacrificially love his wife, are modeled after the love between Christ and the church.
- B. And there's more. Not only does marriage echo the nature of God, and not only is it modeled after the love of God, but it is also the very work of God.

III. Marriage is the Work of God

- A. After commenting on the design of God for marriage in creation, the Lord Jesus said: "**What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate**" (Matthew 19:6).
- B. Marriage is God's work.
 1. A preacher is privileged to perform the ceremony that legally acknowledges his work, but **God is the one** who joins a husband and wife together.
- C. In all of these ways – as the reflection of God's nature; as the model of God's love; as the product of God's work – your marriage is not ultimately about you; it is about God. But here's the incredible thing about a God-centered marriage. By focusing on glorifying God rather than making yourself happy, you will actually find the greatest happiness of all. As you yield to one another, give of yourself to one another, seeking the greater glory of God rather than self-centered satisfaction, you will experience the special joy of divine love that transcends what you could ever hope to achieve on your own.
- D. In the language of Scripture:
 1. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that **together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ** (Romans 15:5-6).

IV. Marriage and True Happiness

- A. Now, as I am stressing the God-centeredness of marriage, I don't mean to ignore or diminish the passion of romance.
 1. The Scriptures celebrate this aspect of marriage in the Song of Solomon. It is a sensual book, filled with romantic descriptions of how attractive the couple finds each other, and of how much pleasure they give each other.
 2. But at the heart of it all is a deep commitment, which the woman in the song expresses with this beautiful phrase,
 - a. "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Songs 6:3).
 3. A holy, committed marriage is foundational to effective service.