

Is Marriage Really That Important?

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Hebrews 13:4

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Marriage & Our View of it is An Expression of the Gospel!

Examining God's Purposes for Marriage:

- **Mirror** His Image : Gen 1:26-27 created male and female
- **Multiply** A Godly Heritage : Gen 1:28a
- **Manage** God's Creation : Gen 1:28b we're to exercise dominion as good stewards
- **Mutually** Complete One Another : Gen 2:18. God gave us male and female to work together better within marriage
- **Model** Christ's Relationship to the Church : Eph 5:31-32. What a privilege to model Christ and the Church!
- **We Dishonor Marriage** when we buy into culture's redefinitions of marriage

Marriage is For All – It is Honorable

- It is not more spiritual to be celibate^{1Tim4:1-5}
- Beware culture which promotes sexual activity outside God's design

So What is the Marriage Bed?

- A euphemism for sexual relations – good & healthy within marriage as God designed it!

So What is Sex & Why Given By God

- An beautiful picture of what God intends in our relationship with Him!
- Sex is ultimately about God^{Col1:16}, not just husband & wife
- God uses sexual imagery^{Eze16:8;Jdgs2:17}
- Proper marital sexual relations give us a picture of Christ's relationship with the Church
- **Sex is a Means of Covenantal Union**
 - Sex is more than just physical^{Gen2:24;1Cor6:14-16;Jn4:17-18}
 - Bonding occurs with sexual relations
- **Sex is a Means of Mutual Pleasure**
 - Sex is pleasurable - God designed to be
 - Just like good food pictures Marriage Supper^{Rev19:9}, sexual pleasure pictures our relationship with God^{Prv5:18-19}
- **Sex is an Expression of the Marital Relationship**
 - Words often lack ability to communicate, sexual relations can expand language to understand relationship between Christ and His Church
- **Sex is an Expression of Relationship between Christ and His Church**
 - Eph 5:31-32. The marriage relationship communicates a picture of His love, passion, intimacy and joy with us through Christ.