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**"Marriage is made in heaven; but then, so are thunder and lightening."**

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**"Love is an ideal thing, marriage is a real thing; a confusion of the real with the ideal never goes unpunished." —Goethe**

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**“Marriage is the process of finding out what kind of person your spouse would have really preferred.”**

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**Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**

**—Hebrews 13:4 ESV**

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**<sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

**—Ephesians 5:31-33 ESV**

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**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. —Genesis 2:24 ESV**

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**Marriage is Divine in Establishment**

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**Marriage is not a “me-thing” or a “you-thing.” Marriage is a “God-thing!”**

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**“Marriage is not greatly respected in our postmodern culture. For many, the covenant of marriage has been discarded in favor of a contract of cohabitation. An ethic of personal autonomy has produced successive generations who think of the world as the arena of their own personal fulfillment and of marriage as an outdated relic of an outgrown culture of obligation.”**

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**“Some have lambasted marriage as a domestic prison, a patriarchal and oppressive institution foisted upon unsuspecting men and women in order to deny them freedom, autonomy, fulfillment, and liberation. And, for a post-Christian culture, there is that nagging problem of the essential character of marriage as sacred institution. A society that disbelieves in God will eventually disbelieve in marriage.” —Dr. Al Mohler**

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**Marriage is Total in Commitment**

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**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. —Genesis 2:24 ESV**

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**“Biblically, a covenant is a solemn and binding agreement, a legal contract of obligation, a public declaration ratified in the presence of witnesses.”**

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**He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.  
—Proverbs 18:22 ESV**

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## Marriage is Pure in Relationship

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<sup>2</sup>Because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

<sup>3</sup>The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

—1 Corinthians 7:2-3 ESV

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## The Act of Marriage Has Three Design Features:

1. Procreation
2. Communication
3. Satisfaction

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Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. —James 1:17 ESV

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God himself will judge those who traffic in the bodies of others or defile the relationship of marriage.

—Hebrews 13:4 J.B. Phillips

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## Marriage is Permanent in Design

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**<sup>5</sup>...“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?” <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**

**—Matthew 19:5-6 ESV**

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**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. —John 10:10 ESV**

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**Marriage is Honored Through Effort**

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**Marriage is not a “state of life” or a “decree of law;” it is “active duty.”**

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**Marriage is Purposeful in Pattern**

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**This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. —Ephesians 5:32 ESV**

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**“Dearly Beloved, we gather here in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony; which is an honorable state, instituted by God in the time of man’s innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and the Church.”  
—Book of Common Prayer**

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**I Believe...**

**Christ is Sufficient for Success in Marriage**

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**I Believe...**

**Walking Out Creates Bigger Problems Than Working Out Issues in Marriage**

33.tif

**I Believe...**

**God’s Grace Mends Human Brokenness**

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**I Believe...**

**Commitment Glorifies God**

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