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\$45,400 WASHINGTON, DC	\$28,000 HAWAII	\$22,353 NEVADA
\$44,219 NEW JERSEY	\$25,625 COLORADO	\$21,352 WASHINGTON
\$43,863 NEW YORK	\$25,377 MINNESOTA	\$20,955 OREGON
\$40,097 MASSACHUSETTS	\$25,284 GEORGIA	\$20,208 ALABAMA
\$36,844 ILLINOIS	\$25,242 WISCONSIN	\$20,000 IOWA
\$33,333 WEST VIRGINIA	\$25,000 MISSISSIPPI	\$19,643 NEBRASKA
\$32,562 PENNSYLVANIA	\$24,565 KENTUCKY	\$19,643 DELAWARE
\$32,369 CALIFORNIA	\$24,531 INDIANA	\$18,690 KANSAS
\$31,350 CONNECTICUT	\$24,293 MISSOURI	\$18,409 UTAH
\$31,100 LOUISIANA	\$24,157 OHIO	\$16,111 WYOMING
\$30,205 VIRGINIA	\$24,063 TEXAS	\$15,769 IDAHO
\$29,928 MARYLAND	\$23,750 SOUTH DAKOTA	\$15,000 VERMONT
\$29,531 RHODE ISLAND	\$23,698 TENNESSEE	\$14,545 ARKANSAS
\$28,456 SOUTH CAROLINA	\$23,586 MICHIGAN	\$14,464 OKLAHOMA
\$28,214 MONTANA	\$22,845 ARIZONA	\$13,500 NEW MEXICO
\$28,170 NORTH CAROLINA	\$22,750 MAINE	\$12,917 NORTH DAKOTA
\$28,121 FLORIDA	\$22,667 NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$12,083 ALASKA

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"LOVE IS BLIND, BUT MARRIAGE RESTORES ITS SIGHT."
—G.C. LICHTENBERG

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"MARRIAGE IS MORE THAN YOUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. IT HAS A HIGHER DIGNITY AND POWER, FOR IT IS GOD'S HOLY ORDINANCE, THROUGH WHICH HE WILLS TO PERPETUATE THE HUMAN RACE TILL THE END OF TIME. IN YOUR LOVE YOU SEE ONLY YOUR TWO SELVES IN THE WORLD, BUT IN MARRIAGE YOU ARE A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF THE GENERATIONS, WHICH GOD CAUSES TO COME AND TO PASS AWAY TO HIS GLORY, AND CALLS INTO HIS KINGDOM. IN YOUR LOVE, YOU SEE ONLY THE HEAVEN OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS, BUT IN MARRIAGE YOU ARE PLACED AT A POST OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE WORLD AND MANKIND. YOUR LOVE IS YOUR OWN PRIVATE POSSESSION, BUT MARRIAGE IS MORE THAN SOMETHING PERSONAL; IT IS A STATUS, AN OFFICE." —DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

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"CHRONOLOGICAL SNOBBERY"
—C.S. LEWIS

-.005.tiff

"SINCE THIS WORLD DID NOT DESIGN MARRIAGE,
IT CANNOT REDEFINE MARRIAGE."

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I. THE PROVISION OF MARRIAGE

(GENESIS 2:18-25)

-.007.tiff

¹⁸THEN THE LORD GOD SAID, "IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE MAN SHOULD BE ALONE; I WILL MAKE HIM A HELPER FIT FOR HIM." ¹⁹NOW OUT OF THE GROUND THE LORD GOD HAD FORMED EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD AND EVERY BIRD OF THE HEAVENS AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE MAN TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD CALL THEM. AND WHATEVER THE MAN CALLED EVERY LIVING CREATURE, THAT WAS ITS NAME. ²⁰THE MAN GAVE NAMES TO ALL LIVESTOCK AND TO THE BIRDS OF THE HEAVENS AND TO EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD. BUT FOR ADAM THERE WAS NOT FOUND A HELPER FIT FOR HIM.

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²¹SO THE LORD GOD CAUSED A DEEP SLEEP TO FALL UPON THE MAN, AND WHILE HE SLEPT TOOK ONE OF HIS RIBS AND CLOSED UP ITS PLACE WITH FLESH. ²²AND THE RIB THAT THE LORD GOD HAD TAKEN FROM THE MAN HE MADE INTO A WOMAN AND BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN. ²³THEN THE MAN SAID, "THIS AT LAST IS BONE OF MY BONES AND FLESH OF MY FLESH; SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN, BECAUSE SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN." ²⁴THEREFORE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND HOLD FAST TO HIS WIFE, AND THEY SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. ²⁵AND THE MAN AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH NAKED AND WERE NOT ASHAMED. —GENESIS 2:18-25

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"THE PROBLEM WITH LOOKING TO ANOTHER HUMAN TO COMPLETE US IS THAT, SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, IT'S IDOLATRY. WE ARE TO FIND OUR FULFILLMENT AND PURPOSE IN GOD...

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IF WE EXPECT OUR SPOUSE TO BE 'GOD' TO US, HE OR SHE WILL FAIL EVERY DAY. NO PERSON CAN LIVE UP TO SUCH EXPECTATIONS." —DR. GARY THOMAS

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2. THE PROTECTION OF MARRIAGE

-.012.tiff

"HE ANSWERED, "HAVE YOU NOT READ THAT HE WHO CREATED THEM FROM THE BEGINNING MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 'AND SAID, 'THEREFORE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER

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AND HOLD FAST TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?
'SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO BUT ONE FLESH. WHAT THEREFORE GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN SEPARATE."
—MATTHEW 19:4-6

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COVENANT = IT IS A LIFELONG PARTNERSHIP MADE BEFORE GOD RESULTING IN A LIFETIME OF BELONGING AND CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER. IT IS NOT A VOW MADE FOR "AS LONG AS THEY BOTH SHALL LOVE" BUT FOR "AS LONG AS THEY BOTH SHALL LIVE."

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"THE SEXUAL LIBERATION REVOLUTION OF THE 1960'S SET IN MOTION A CASCADE EFFECT: THE REVERSAL OF THE LONG STANDING MORAL CONSENSUS AROUND PROMISCUITY (SEPARATING SEX FROM MARRIAGE) WORKED IN TANDEM WITH THE ADVENT OF BIRTH CONTROL AND THE LEGALIZATION OF ABORTION (SEPARATING SEX FROM PROCREATION), WHICH MOVED ON TO THE LEGALIZATION OF NO-FAULT DIVORCE (TURNING A COVENANT INTO A CONTRACT AND SEPARATED SEX FROM INTIMACY AND FIDELITY), THEN TO TINDER AND HOOK UP CULTURE (SEPARATING SEX FROM ROMANCE AND TURNED IT INTO A WAY TO 'GET YOUR NEEDS MET'). FROM THERE IT'S MOVED ON TO THE LGBTQI+ REVOLUTION (SEPARATING SEX FROM MALE/FEMALE BINARY), THE CURRENT TRANSGENDER WAVE (SEPARATING GENDER FROM BIOLOGICAL SEX) AND THE NASCENT POLYAMORY MOVEMENT (ATTEMPTING TO MOVE BEYOND TWO PERSON RELATIONSHIPS)." —JOHN MARK COMER

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"OUR IDEAS COALESCE TO FORM THE MENTAL MAP BY WHICH WE NAVIGATE REALITY... REALITY DOES NOT ADJUST ITSELF TO OUR ILLUSIONS." —JOHN MARK COMER

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"SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE SECURES ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE IN ISOLATION FROM ALL THE OBLIGATION THAT GOD INTENDS." —ALISTAIR BEGG

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"MODERNITY CAN BE SEEN AS ONE LONG ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE PERMANENT—INCLUDING MARRIAGE. THE MODERN AGE HAS BROUGHT THE RISE OF INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY, THE COLLECTION OF POPULATIONS IN CITIES,

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THE WEAKENING OF FAMILY COMMITMENTS, THE WANING OF FAITH, THE ROUTINIZATION OF DIVORCE, AND A HOST OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS THAT SUBVERT MARRIAGE THE COMMITMENT IT REQUIRES." —DR. ALBERT MOHLER

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3. THE PRESERVATION OF MARRIAGE (EPHESIANS 5)

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"DESTRUCTIVE TO MARRIAGE IS THE SELF-FULFILLMENT ETHIC THAT ASSUMES MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ARE PRIMARILY INSTITUTIONS OF PERSONAL FULFILLMENT, NECESSARY FOR US TO BECOME 'WHOLE AND HAPPY.' THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT THERE IS SOMEONE JUST RIGHT FOR US TO MARRY AND THAT IF WE LOOK CLOSELY ENOUGH, WE WILL FIND THE RIGHT PERSON. THIS MORAL ASSUMPTION OVERLOOKS A CRUCIAL ASPECT OF MARRIAGE. IT FAILS TO APPRECIATE THE FACT WE ALWAYS MARRY THE WRONG PERSON... LEARNING TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THE STRANGER TO WHOM YOU FIND YOURSELF MARRIED."
—DR. STANLEY HAUERWAS

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"MARRIAGE IS FAR MORE PROFOUND THAN OUR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE. IT IS A LIFELONG COMMITMENT THAT RESTRAINS SELF-CENTEREDNESS, SELF-INDULGENCE AND SELF-GRATIFICATION. IT IS THE ONE RELATIONSHIP THAT EFFECTIVELY PREPARES AND CONDITIONS US FOR COMMUNITY. BY RESTRAINING SELF-CENTEREDNESS AND PROMOTING LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, MARRIAGE BECOMES THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL ORDER. WHEN THIS COMMITMENT LABELED MARRIAGE IS REDUCED TO NOTHING MORE THAN A MERE CONTRACT BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING PERSONS, OR JUST ONE OPTION AMONG MANY...

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IT CEASES TO RESTRAIN OUR SELF-CENTERED PASSIONS. SELF-CENTEREDNESS HARMS NOT ONLY THAT RELATIONSHIP, BUT ALSO OTHERS UNTIL IT SPREADS THROUGHOUT SOCIETY LIKE RIPPLES IN A POND. ABANDONING THE 'OTHERS BEFORE SELF' CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE FOR THE SELF-SERVING CONCEPT OF CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AUTONOMOUS INDIVIDUALS MAKES US INCREASINGLY NARCISSISTIC. THIS NARCISSISM DIMINISHES DESIRE FOR AND COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE, ULTIMATELY LEADING TOWARD MORAL AND SOCIAL COLLAPSE." —MICHAEL CRAVEN

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