

Introduction:

- A. Marriage has always been a _____ matter, but it is getting even more and more complicated with the _____ revolution that is taking place in our time.
- B. For millennia, civilizations have defined marriage as an exclusive, permanent union between a _____ and a _____.
- C. Presently, the Supreme Court is deliberating about whether _____ couples have the right to marry anywhere in the United States.
- D. So is the discussion of marriage in our culture simply a matter of moving on from an “_____ of seeing things” to a _____ of seeing things?

I. Male and Female He Created Them.

- A. Nothing else in all creation, not even the most majestic angel, is portrayed as created “in the _____ of _____.” (Gen. 1:27)
- B. This is where any Bible-informed conversation about men and women must begin – with men and women both created with _____ before God and before each other.
- C. But being created equally doesn’t mean that we are created _____.
- D. Genesis 2 provides a more detailed description of the creation of male and female that gives us a number of important _____ to God’s _____ for the relationship between husband and wife.
- E. Behold the beauty of God’s design for man, woman and marriage.
 - 1. Two dignified people, both molded in the image of their Maker.
 - 2. Two diverse people, uniquely designed to _____ each other.

II. Christ and the Church

- A. From the beginning of time, God designed marriage in this way for a _____ and that purpose was not fully revealed until Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, and instituted the _____. (Eph. 5:23-27, 32)
- B. In the picture of marriage, God intends to portray Christ’s _____ for the church and the church’s _____ for Christ on the canvas of human experience.

Conclusion:

- A. Two important points that I hope we walk away with from today’s lesson are:
 - 1. That marriage is God’s _____ and therefore, marriage belongs to God.
 - 2. That marriage is for God’s _____ and proclaims God’s relationship with us.
- B. Consider these truths:
 - 1. God’s Word is _____ and _____.
 - 2. God’s plan for marriage is _____ and _____.
 - 3. Marriage belongs to God...let’s follow His plan and His design.
 - 4. If we follow God’s plan, then our marriages will be _____ and will be a _____.

Answer Key: Intro.A. complicated, moral. B. man, woman. C. same-sex. D. old, way, new, way. I.A. image, God. I.B. equal, dignity. I.C. identically. I.D. clues, plan. I.E.2. compliment. II.A. purpose, church. II.B. love, love. Concl.A.1. doing. A.2. glory. B.1. true, good. B.2. true, good. B.4. blessed, blessing.