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 ____________