"BIBLICAL MARRIAGE"
(Ephesians 5:21-33)

What is marriage? That's a question that's coming up a lot recently. Today we will focus our attentions specifically on marriage from the biblical perspective. In an ever-changing world, our God and His truth do not change.

1. God gave marriage for _____ of men and women.

2. God created marriage for _____ of the human race.

3. God created marriage for the _____.

4. God created marriage for the _____.

5. God created marriage for the _____.

6. God created marriage for the _____ with Christ.

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(Ephesians 5:21-33)

"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).

"What therefore God has joined together..." (Matthew 19:6, ESV).

"We are members of his body. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'" (Ephesians 5:30-31, ESV).

"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).

1. God gave marriage for <u>the connection</u> of men and women.

"*Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman"* (1 Corinthians 11:11, ESV).

"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18, ESV).

"From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother 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" (Mark 10:7-9, ESV).

2. God created marriage for <u>the multiplication</u> of the human race.

"God, NOT YOU, made marriage! His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Godly children from your union. So guard the spirit of marriage within you" (Malachi 2:15, The Message).

3. God created marriage for the <u>protection of children</u>.

"Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children" (Proverbs 14:26, NLT).

4. God created marriage for the <u>perfection of our character</u>.

"Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire" (Proverbs 18:1, ESV).

5. God created marriage for the <u>construction of society</u>.

"Righteousness (God's way) *exalts a nation, but sin* (not God's way) *is a reproach to any people"* (Proverbs 14:34, ESV).

6. God created marriage for <u>the reflection of our union</u> with Christ.

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