

Upreach ♦ Outreach ♦ Proclamation

*Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? (Jeremiah 23:29)*

## Marriage Done God's Way

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Scripture seems to indicate that marriage and family are the building blocks of society and even the Church.

According to our culture, marriage is fluid.

But, if marriage is not a human idea but an institution created by God, then we don't have the option of changing it or altering it.

*"But 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 they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Mark 10:6-9)*

Marriage is God's institution. It was His idea.

The symbolism of the Bible.

One of the most profoundly symbolic books in the Bible is the book of Hosea.

Hosea called by God to marry a prostitute. It's meant to be symbolic of the Lord and His chosen people -- Israel -- and how *they* have chosen to play the harlot.

The recurring theme: a love song.

*"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope." (Hosea 2:14-15)*

*"Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them." (Hosea 11:3-4)*

*"I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon." (Hosea 14:4-5)*

God calls out, "I love you!" while we're trying to cover our ears and not listen.

It was not accidental that God chose the marriage relationship as being symbolic of His relationship with us.

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... (Ephesians 5:25)*

Awesome: *“daunting; inspiring great apprehension or fear.”*

Our fleshly nature has a tendency to push back. It takes so much less effort to be selfish, doesn't it?

Kevin Miller in *Discipleship Journal*

*Love is patient and kind... it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful... (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)*

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Ephesians 5:22-24)*

*Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (Colossians 3:18)*

*Older women ... are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands... to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands. (Titus 2:3-5)*

*Wives, be subject to your own husbands (1 Peter 3:1)*

*We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19), right?*

It is both an inward and outward submission. In other words, it's about the heart, but it must be expressed in tangible ways.

*Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:33)*

No matter which role you've been given in the marriage relationship – husband or wife – you can't do any of this on your own. Not fully. Not completely.

We must keep on orienting ourselves toward the One who relentlessly pursues us.