

Theme: Marriage must be centered on God, and its true purposes are found in fulfilling our call to display God's image in all the earth.

## I. Intro – Building Strong Families

- A. We have seen problems in cultural 'marriage'
- B. What will build strong marriages?
- C. Key issue: Purpose of marriage
- D. Why did God give marriage? What is it for?

## II. Four Main Purposes of Marriage

- A. Displaying God's image
  - 1. Created to display God's image (1:26-27)
  - 2. Marriage key part of this (Mt 19:4-5)
  - 3. Related to Trinity (Gen 1:26-27; plural; male/female)
  - 4. Trinity – relationship of love (John 17:24)
  - 5. Marriage – relationship of love!
- B. Mirroring Christ and the Church
  - 1. For this reason – marriage (Gen 2:24)
  - 2. About Christ and Church (Eph 5:31-32)
  - 3. Christ and Church model (Eph 5:24-25)

- 4. Love, honor, sacrifice before watching world

## C. Multiplying and godly legacy

- 1. Be fruitful and multiply God's image (Gen 1:28)
- 2. Build a strong house – children (Ps 127:1-2; 3-5)
- 3. Psalm 127 and culture – table
- 4. Trends in Western Civ – not replacing ourselves

## D. Complementing and completing one another

- 1. A helper suitable – complementing (Gen 2:18)
- 2. Taken out of man – now joined together (Gen 2:22-24)
- 3. Complete for three tasks above – reverse order
- 4. Singles – specially given to Church – find C&C there

## III. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see the God-centered nature of marriage/family?
  - 1. It is not about us – it is about God!
  - 2. Is this how we think of purpose of marriage/family?
  - 3. Once again – focus is key (Matthew 6:33)
- B. Is your marriage/family displaying God's Image?
  - 1. Is it characterized by multiplicity in unity?

2. Are you becoming one?
- C. Does your marriage display Christ & Church?
1. Sacrificial love and honoring?
  2. Can others see Christ & church in your marriage?
- D. Are you completing/complementing one another?
1. Do you see differences as strengths – or trouble?
  2. Do you receive your mate – even where different?
- E. Are you leaving a legacy – your children?
1. Culture of Ps 127 – which is your view?
  2. Not just children - godly legacy – WORK!

### The Purposes of Marriage

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24

January 22, 2006

?? Baby dedication ??

Numbers 6

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"

Matthew 19:4-5

24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

John 17:24

31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Ephesians 5:31-32

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

Ephesians 5:24-25

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat-- for he grants sleep to those he loves.

Psalms 127:1-2

3 Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. 4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

Psalms 127:3-5

<b>Psalm 127</b>	<b>Culture</b>
✓ <b>Children are a blessing</b>	✓ <b>Children are a hindrance</b>
✓ <b>Have many children</b>	✓ <b>Have few children</b>
✓ <b>Have children while you are young</b>	✓ <b>Wait until you are older to have children</b>

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33