

Extreme Makeover – Cosmic Edition

I. **The Need to Reclaim Marriage and Singleness:** Widespread dysfunction in the realms of marriage and singleness due to ignorance, foolishness, and sinfulness.

II. God’s Design: The Symphony of Marriage

A. The First Movement: The Institution of Marriage (Genesis 1-2)

1. The *Mission* of the First Couple: (1:26-28): to serve God by advancing his rule over the earth
2. The Original *Functions* of marriage:
 - 1) A relationship to cultivate = *relational companionship*
 - 2) A work to share = *vocational partnership* (includes procreation)
3. The *Purpose* of marriage is to facilitate the *mission* through the implementation of the *functions*.
4. The *Pattern* established by the First Couple (2:24): such a life-long partnership can only be built on the strongest possible bond of commitment (covenant).

B. The Second Movement: The Corruption of Marriage (Genesis 3 and OT)

1. The first couple aborted their mission – replacing sovereign rule with sin-stained survival
2. Every function of marriage was corrupted:
 - a. Companionship → alienation and blaming (3:12); power struggle with domination of the weaker by the stronger (3:16)
 - b. Procreation → childbirth now attended by pain and sorrow (3:16)
 - c. Vocation → due to rebellion of their former domain, meaningful labor degenerated into life-sapping toil.

C. The Third Movement: The Redemption of Marriage

1. God’s current project: the _____ of a sin-damaged universe: _____ what was ruined (Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:20-21) and _____ what was alienated (Col. 1:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:17-19), especially human beings (Eph. 1:3-14).
 - a. Phase 1: The _____ of Christ on the cross by which repentant sinners are *reconciled* to God and the *restoration* of the marred image of God is begun (Col. 1:19-10).
 - b. Phase 2: The creation of the _____ to embody the rule of God and to recruit others to repent and join the fellowship (Acts 2).
2. What Jesus has done to redeem marriage:
 - a. He has modified the *status* of marriage, _____ it to advance the mission of disciples in the re-creation.
 - 1) From obligatory to _____ (Mat. 19:3-12)
 - 2) From primary to _____ (Mat. 12:47-50; 10:34-37; Luke 18:28-30)
 - 3) Marriage is rightly thought of as a _____ institution contributing to the mission of the church (advancing the rule of God within people and throughout the earth).
 - b. He _____ believing spouses enabling them to fulfill the functions of Christian marriage.

The calling of married Christians during the third movement is to substantially re-establish the original _____ that existed between marital functions in ways that appropriate to our fallen environment.

- 1) We must _____ our culture's distorted preoccupation with the quest for the ideal "soul mate."
 - a) Misleading implications of "soul mate."
 - 1] There's only _____ per person.
 - 2] Fantasy of the "_____ mate"
 - 3] A soul mate will "_____ me."
 - 4] Marriage is about the mutual emotional _____ of the spouses.
 - b) NT: An additional component of companionship: _____.
- 2) We must properly _____ the dimension of vocational partnership to a Christian picture of marriage.
 - a) The meaning and nature of vocation
 - 1] "Calling" = an encompassing _____, broader in scope than one's occupation, that reflects God purpose for us as workers (1 Pet 2:9).
 - 2] "Steward" = someone who has been given responsibility for the productive _____ of someone else's property (1 Pet. 4:10).
 - 3] Our vocation: to be _____ - _____ over God's creation and kingdom. Our vocation is to carry out God's mission for us (Mat. 6:33).
 - b) Three "gardens" where spouses carry out their vocational partnership
 - 1] _____
 - 2] Christian (church) _____
 - 3] _____
 - a] A commitment to not allow one's work to _____ the marriage.
 - b] A commitment to encourage one's spouse to be a good _____.
 - 3) A Biblical Model for Marriage in a Fallen World: _____ and _____ (Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-26; Rom. 16:3-5a; 1 Cor. 16:19).
 - c. A Bonus Function (Eph 5:25, 28-32): to _____ the covenantal relationship between Christ and his Bride, the Church.

D. The Fourth Movement: The Culmination of Marriage

1. Human marriage is for _____ life only. In heaven, we will all be "_____ " (Mat 22:30).
2. Human marriage is designed to _____ the ultimate marriage between Christ and his Bride. In heaven we will all be "_____ " – to King Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11).

III. Reclaiming Marriage – Present Day Applications

- A. While Christians are to value and appreciate marriage, we are called to *keep it in its place*. It is neither the ultimate _____ nor the ultimate _____.
 - It is a _____ of the ultimate relationship.
 - It is intended to _____ to the mission of the primary institution – the _____.
- B. Single adults who are considering marriage should do so for biblical _____ (in harmony with God's purposes for marriage). And they should seek out a _____ who is well suited and committed to fulfilling the biblical mission and functions of marriage.
- C. Married believers should . . .
 - Cultivate both _____ of their marriage
 - Seek to minister _____ their spouses and _____ their spouses.
 - Seek to accurately _____ the relationship between Christ and his Bride
 - Let the blessings of their current marriage create an _____ for their Ultimate Marriage.