

THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.³⁰ And we are members of his body.³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-33

Different Views on Marriage:

- If I find my SOUL MATE my life will be COMPLETE.
- Marriage is an old-fashioned institution that limits individual FREEDOM.
- Marriage was DESIGNED by God and reflects His love for us in JESUS CHRIST.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."
Genesis 2:18

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While

the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening.²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"
Genesis 2:21-23

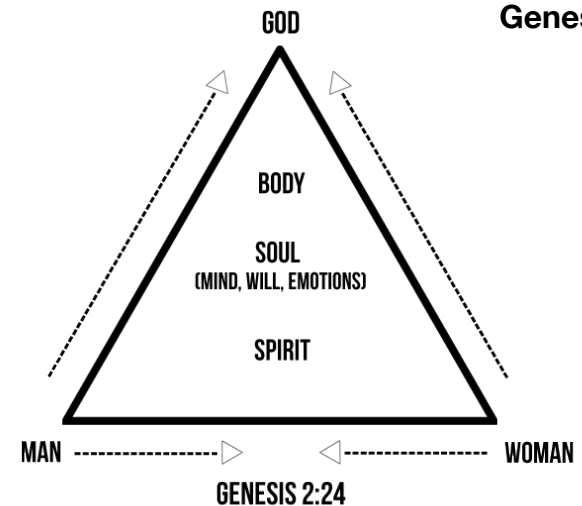
1. Marriage is a HOLY COVENANT between a man and woman.

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage...
Hebrews 13:4

2. God CREATED marriage to provide an illustration of OUR RELATIONSHIP with Him.

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Genesis 2:24



This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.
Ephesians 5:32

3. Pursue a healthy marriage to give God glory.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

Revelation 19:7