



“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

# LIGHT from Christ's LIFE

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UPPER ROOM  
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

## Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;  
...”

### PRAYER:

♦ For godly families.

♦ For God's special BLESSINGS upon ALL 2017 ADT disciples—students.

♦ For a special DISCERNMENT and clearer SPIRITUAL DIRECTION in 2017.

♦ For an authentic HUNGER for spiritual transformation.

♦ For NEW DOORS OPEN by God in 2017.

♦ For URFM's spiritual and material SUPPLIES.

Amen!!!

## Genesis 1:28

“God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply,  
...”

## The Meaning of Marriage

Motto:

*“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”*  
(Ephesians 5:32) - Apostle Paul

Why people get married? Socrates said, “Stay single, but if you must get married, by all means marry. If you have a happy marriage you will be happy. If you have an unhappy marriage, you will become a philosopher.”

<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/s/socrates163765.html>

Seriously! *Why people get married?* In the next few paragraphs, I would like to share a few things I have on my heart from the Holy Scriptures regarding “*The Meaning of Marriage*” and “*The Purpose of Marriage*.” (This article is adapted from the sermon message I preached at my youngest daughter Cristina and my son-in-law Teo’s wedding in August 2011).

### I. The Meaning of Marriage:

A wise man said that if you know the *what* it is easier understand the *why*. I have to agree with that. Let us attempt to address the question: *What is marriage?*

#### 1. Marriage is a Gift and a Mystery.

Marriage... Whose idea was it? Where did the concept of marriage and family come from? *Who designed it?* I hope you agree with me that it was God’s idea. If we look into the first book of the Bible – Genesis, we read that after all the mighty acts of creation God Himself declared that it “*was good,*” even “*very good!*” The light and the earth were good, the sun, the moon, and the stars were good, the vegetation was good, all the creatures swimming in the waters, flying in the sky, and living on earth were good. Everything that was created by God “*was very good!*” (Gen. 1:31). Then, all of a sudden God declared something else: “*It is not good*”. In verse 18 from Genesis chapter 2 we read: “Then the LORD God said, “*It is not good for the man to be alone;* I will make him a helper suitable for him” You see! God Himself came up with the idea of relationship and companionship. Of course! “**God is LOVE**” (1 John 4:8).

***“It is not good for the man to be alone;”***  
**(Genesis 2:18)**

David Wilkerson said, “Love is not something you feel. It’s something you do.” (<http://www.angelfire.com/me3/Micherz/lovequotes.html>) In Genesis 2:24 we read: “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.” **Therefore it was God who created the institution of marriage and family.**

I like what Pope John Paul II said regarding marriage: “Love the family! Defend and promote it as the basic cell of human society; nurture it as the prime sanctuary of life. Give great care to the preparation of engaged couples and be close to young married couples, so that they will be for their children and the whole community an eloquent testimony of God’s love.”

Martin Luther who initiated the Protestant Reformation said, “There is no more lovely, friendly, charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.”

Ruth Bell Graham, said, “A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers.” I like that. And her husband, Billy Graham, when asked about his secret of love, being married many decades to the same person, he said, “Ruth and I are happily incompatible.” (<http://www.smartmarriages.com>)



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God Created Family



Therefore, we can conclude that **marriage is a special gift and a mystery** directly from God.

**2. Marriage is a Covenant not a Contract**

Since marriage is God’s idea and it was God who designed it, we must go to God’s Manual for Marriage – *The Bible* to learn more about *what* marriage is and *how* it works. In Malachi, God brings a list of issues that were displeasing Him. One of those was breaking the covenant of marriage. The prophet writes, “This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously

(betrayed trust), though she is your companion and your wife by covenant” (Malachi 2:13-14).

Do you hear what God says? Do you see this? **Marriage is a covenant not a contract.**

But people, yes even people of God, were breaking it. They were breaking this one along with other covenants God made with their fathers. . . .

**What is a covenant?** A covenant or a testament refers to the formation of a binding agreement by blood. According to the Institute in Basic Life Principles, a covenant “is a life and death agreement which expresses the ultimate commitment which can be made between two people, between a person and God, and between God and a person.”

**3. Marriage is a Permanent Bond between a man and a woman in God’s presence for LIFE**

As stated previously, marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman before God. The Bible tells us, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). That is why in the marriage vows both, the bride and the groom, summarize their commitment with words like these: “*I take you now – to have and to hold – from this day forward – for better, for worse – for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health - to love and to cherish – till death do us part.*” When a couple recites the vows to each other in front of the pastor, priest, or rabbi, in the presence of their families, the wedding party and all the guests, there is a higher authority present – *The Almighty God*. The vows are made not only between the bride and the groom, but between the bride, the groom and the God of the universe. The Scriptures reveal to us: Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth” (Malachi 2:14). Therefore the idea of divorce is not compatible with the marriage covenant.

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That is why when Jesus Christ was questioned regarding divorce and separation in marriage He answered with authority: “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate” (Matt. 19:6). It breaks God’s heart when He looks down at the state of marriages and families in our country today.

Consider the following statistics from the Divorce Magazine: “(i) In the United States, 49% of marriages end in divorce.

(ii) Although 82% of all married couples will reach their fifth wedding anniversary, only 52% will celebrate 15 years of marriage.” ([http://divorce.lovetoknow.com/Divorce\\_Statistics](http://divorce.lovetoknow.com/Divorce_Statistics) (Accessed in 2011).

I really like what Tertullian said, “And when will there be an end of marrying? I suppose, when there is an end of living!” (<https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/t/tertullian.html>)

If we consider all of these resources from the Bible and from the Church Fathers, we can conclude that **marriage is a permanent bond between a man and a woman in God’s presence for the rest of their LIVES.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote to a young bride and groom from his prison cell in Nazi Germany in 1943, “It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.” (<http://www.smartmarriages.com>) I like this very much!

Next time we will address the second aspect: **The Purpose of Marriage.**

With LOVE in Christ’s Service,

*Deby Cadena*

Spiritual Mentor / Life Coach

**P.S.:** Thank you for your continuous prayers and financial support!

“The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him.” (Gal. 6:6).

If you are looking for personal spiritual life coaching sessions or if you desire to have a personalized mentorship plan designed specifically for your spiritual growth please contact me immediately!

