

PURPOSE

I. REFLECT GOD'S IMAGE

- Genesis 1:26-27

God created mankind to mirror His image on earth.

- a. God made two distinctly different humans (male and female) so that _____ they would reflect the image of God.
- b. Oneness is necessary in order to _____ the image of God.
 - i. A demonstration of oneness with your mate reflects the unity of the Trinity.
 - ii. Walking in oneness defeats the enemy's strategy.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them.
- Genesis 1:27

II. MULTIPLY A GODLY HERITAGE

- Genesis 1:28a

- a. God created men and women as His _____ who would glorify Him on earth.
- b. Through this line of godly descendants, Satan's kingdom would be _____.
- c. Oneness is necessary in order to _____ a godly heritage.
 - i. For children to appreciate their sexual identity, they must see a harmonious marriage modeled by their parents.
 - ii. The roles of the husband and wife can best be understood by children as they observe the modeling of these roles in the home by their parents.
 - iii. A child's best hope for understanding unconditional love is oneness demonstrated between the husband and wife in the home.

III. MANAGE GOD'S CREATION.

- Genesis 1:28b

- a. God gave mankind _____ over His creation to manage it and make it a productive reflection of Him.
- b. Couples that are living by God's principles threaten Satan's power; therefore Satan concentrates his major _____ on them.
 - i. Oneness is necessary in order to effectively manage the creation.

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
- Genesis 2:18

IV. MUTUALLY COMPLETE ONE ANOTHER (to experience companionship)

- Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:11

- a. _____ fulfills aloneness needs.
- b. Oneness is necessary in order for a man and wife to _____ one another.
 - i. Self-centered individuality destroys oneness and companionship.

V. MODEL CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

- Ephesians 5:31,32

- a. Marriage is a _____ of Christ's relationship with His bride, the church.
- b. The Bible refers to this as a _____.
- c. Oneness is necessary in order to _____ the relationship of Christ and His church.
 - i. Christ heads, loves and serves His church.
 - ii. The church is reverently subject to Christ.
 - iii. Both roles must be properly fulfilled to demonstrate oneness.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,
- Ephesians 5:25-26*

VI. CONCLUSION

- a. God has established marriage for at least _____ purposes:
 - i. Reflect God's image
 - ii. Multiply a godly heritage
 - iii. Manage God's realm
 - iv. Mutually complete one another
 - v. Model Christ's relationship to the church
- b. Our _____ in marriage comes from pursuing God's purposes.
- c. Marriage is far more _____ than you may have thought.
 - i. Marriage affects God's reputation.
 - ii. Marriage is God's smallest battle formation.
- d. Recognize that your marriage is taking place on a spiritual _____.
 - i. To be in opposition to your mate is to be in opposition to the very purposes of God. God's purposes can only be accomplished by following His plan.
 - ii. God's Word demands a response: Will you fulfill His purposes for your marriage?

*That is the way holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands
- 1 Peter 3:5 NLT*

HOMEWORK:

Complete and turn in the following couple's projects:

- Purpose Part A: God's Purpose for Marriage (both independent of each other)
- Purpose Part B01: MAN (Man only)
- Purpose Part B02: WOMAN (Woman only)
- Purpose Part C01: MAN (Man only)
- Purpose Part C02: WOMAN (Woman only)

COUPLE'S PROJECT

Purpose Part A: both complete independent of each other

1. Share one thing you felt that you *learned* about “The Purpose of Marriage”.
2. God had at least five purposes for creating marriage. Which one of these purposes do you think will be the most exciting to live out? Why?
3. Genesis 2:18 states that it was not good for the man to be alone and this statement occurs before the “fall of man” in Genesis 3. So, in essence, we were created with an “aleness need” that God said was “not good.” What does this tell you about your needs and your spouse’s needs? How does this affect how you approach your spouse’s needs?
4. Can you completely reflect God’s image as an individual? What does God need to completely reflect Himself in the world?
5. How does recognizing that God created your spouse specifically for you change your marriage?

COUPLE'S PROJECT

Purpose Part C01: Project for the **Man**

Please honestly and objectively review these questions over the next week. It may be helpful to seek the counsel of a trustworthy married couple to address any concerns that arise as a result of looking at them.

FOR THE MAN...

1. Is this the one woman for whom you desire to be responsible and caring for the rest of your life? Why her?
2. Is she the right partner for you five years from now? Ten years from now? When you are 40? In the years ahead, how do you see her supporting the goals you have?
3. Is she the person you want to raise your family?
4. Are you ready to accept for a lifetime the weaknesses she now displays in her relationships with others? (e.g. friends, roommates, family)
5. Why do you think you will be a good head for this woman?
6. Are you willing and able to take financial responsibility for your wife and future children?
7. Has this person demonstrated control or lack of control over her own financial affairs? Do you think she will be happy with the material lifestyle you will provide?
8. Does she respect you? Do you think she will be happy with you as her leader?
9. Is there anything you can think of that you do not accept about her – emotions, habits, personality, family, beliefs, goals, appearance, etc.?
10. Why do you expect your relationship to grow stronger over time?

COUPLE'S PROJECT

Purpose Part C02: Project for the **Woman**

Please honestly and objectively review these questions over the next week. It may be helpful to seek the counsel of a trustworthy married couple to address any concerns that arise as a result of looking at them.

FOR THE WOMAN...

1. Why do you think you will be a good lifetime helpmate for this man?
2. Why do you want to submit "as unto the Lord" for the rest of your life to this man as opposed to someone else?
3. Are you ready to accept for a lifetime the weaknesses he now displays in his relationships with others? (e.g. friends, roommates, family)
4. Would this man be a good father? Why?
5. Does he have a sense of direction and purpose that will make him a good leader for your family? What do you see in his life that indicates that?
6. Will he be a good financial provider and manager for your family? What makes you think so? Are his financial prospects such that you would be able to raise children at home?
7. Who do you want to be and what do you want to be doing five years from now? Ten years from now? Is this the person who can help you get there? Where do you want to be when you are 40, and whom do you want to be with?
8. Do you think this man will be the spiritual leader God wants you to have in a husband? What do you see that indicates that?
9. Is there anything you can think of that you do not accept about him – emotions, habits, personality, family, beliefs, goals, appearance, etc.?
10. Why do you expect your relationship to grow stronger over time?