

Celebrating God's Original Plan

(Genesis 2:18-25)

1) Affirm the **Dignity** of Both Men and Women *(Genesis 1:26-28)*

- God Created Male and Female Equally *(Gen. 1:26-27)*
- Both Male and Female were told to "Subdue" the earth *(Gen. 1:28)*
- God does not value men over women *(Numbers 27:6-7)*
- Men and women are to be treated equal *(Gal. 3:28)*
- Men and women both have been empowered for ministry.

A few considerations:

- Acts 21:9 – Phillip's four daughters
- Acts 2 – sons and daughters prophesy
- First ones to tell of the risen Christ were women
- 1 Cor. 11:5 – when a woman prays for prophesies let her head be covered.

2) Acknowledge the **Differences** of Men and Women

General Differences include:

- **Strength** (Men Physical; Women Relational)
- **Speech** (Men not as verbal; Women more verbal)
- **Support** (Men Providers; Women Nurturers)
- **Security** (Men Protectors; Women Nesters)
- **Success** (Men Achievers; Women Connectors)
- **Sensitivity** (Men insensitive; women sensitive)
- **Solving Problems** (Men rational; Women emotional)

3) Appreciate the **Design** of Marriage (*Genesis 2:18-25*)

FROM **Genesis 2:18-25**:

- **Marriage is ordained by God.**
- **Marriage is between a man and a woman.** (no homosexuality)
- **Marriage is between ONE man and ONE woman.** (no polygamy)

Marriage has been

DISMISSED as irrelevant;

DEMEANED as a career buster;

DELAYED for selfish reasons;

DISCOURAGED by those who have been hurt;

DISRESPECTED by Hollywood and the entertainment industry;

REDEFINED by our society, so it no longer holds the meaning as outlined in Scripture

Hebrews 13:4 (Amplified Bible) **Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things.**

(ICB) Marriage should be honored by everyone.

(NLT) Give honor to marriage

Marriage is to be honored by all believers. The word "honor" means **highly esteemed, counted as the most precious, warm and tender bond, held as the most valuable of bonds, as being the dearest of relationships.**

Honored, respected, distinguished, celebrated, esteemed, highly regarded.

Why We should honor marriage:

Healthy Society (*or Helps a Healthy Society*) (*Prov. 14:34*)

Oneness between one Man and one Woman (*1 Cor. 11:11*)

Necessary for Population (*Malachi 2:15; Genesis 1:28*)

Offers Protection to Children (*Proverbs 14:26; Ephesians 6:4; Matthew 12:29; 1 Cor. 16:13*)

Reflects Christ and the Church (*Ephesians 5:25-33*)

Experience Physical Intimacy (*Exodus 20:14; 1 Cor. 7:1-3*)

Develops Your Character (*Proverbs 18:1*)

Ways we can honor marriage today:

- **Receive Marriage is a Gift from God to You.** (Singleness is also a gift. – read *1 Cor. 7:7*)
- **Resolve to Fight for Your Marriage.** (Remember that Marriage is a Covenant, not a Contract)
- **Refuse to Allow Society to Redefine Marriage For You.** (The Supreme Court of the universe has already ruled on the matter.)