

The Nature of Marriage

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Divine Provision

Marriage is God's provision for human happiness (Genesis 2:18-24; Proverbs 18:22; 19:14).

Exclusive Privileges

Marriage provides exclusive privileges (Proverbs 5:15-23; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4).

Mutual Responsibilities

Marriage requires mutual responsibilities (Ephesians 5:22-32; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

Sacred Covenant

Marriage is a sacred, three-fold covenant between a man, a woman and their God (Malachi 2:13-16; Proverbs 2:16-19; Matthew 19:3-9).

Temporal Relationship

Marriage is a temporal and earthly relationship, not an eternal and heavenly one (Ecclesiastes 9:2-10; Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40).

Spiritual Foundation

Happiness in marriage is rooted in maintaining a proper relationship with God (Psalm 128:1-6; cf. also 127:1-5).

- Recognize the value of character (Genesis 6:1-9; Proverbs 12:4; 14:1; 31:10-31).
- Realize the importance of temperament (Proverbs 19:13; 21:9, 19; 27:15-16).