

the sanctity of marriage

introduction

the fallacies of fairy-tale marriage

the intention of God for marriage

1. the glory of God

3 distinct and specific ways in which God's glory is reflected in his ordering our humanity, and revealed supremely in the relationship of marriage

1) 'complementarity'

let us make man in our image, in our likeness ...

so God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them

- the image of God

the creation of human beings was to be the visible expression of who God is and what God is like

- male and female

in order adequately to display his glory, God was obliged to create humanity male and female

The complementary union of a man and a woman in marriage is intended to provide a picture, right at the centre of any society's life, of who God is and what God is like.

2) creativity

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it ...'

God is the Creator: he generates life

- their dependence on God

God's blessing enables them to fulfil their God-given call

- their need of each other

they can't generate life without God, nor without the other

It is in the complementary union of husband and wife in marriage, and the consequent issue of children, that the great glory of God as the Author of *life* is wonderfully displayed

3) commitment

the third great facet of the glory of God which humanity is created, and called, to express is commitment: “God is love”

for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh

- the sequence
- the significance

2. the grace of the gospel

‘make the most of every opportunity’ we have to portray and show forth the grace of the gospel

being filled with the Spirit and submitting to one another

- in a marriage – the grace of God in uniting us with his Son
- in our homes – the grace of God in bringing us into his family
- in our work – the grace of God in calling us into his service

the same – yet different

- Jesus – one of us, yet Son of God
- Jesus – a Child of the Father, yet King of the church

sacrifice and submission

- the ‘submission’ of a wife
- the ‘sacrifice’ of a husband

conclusion

our privilege and calling is to display the glory of God