

A BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR MARRIAGE

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- I. Where do we learn what Marriage truly is about?

- II. The Pattern of Created Male-Female Relationships **from the Trinity**
 - A. The Nature of the Trinity: Equal in essence, Distinct in Persons and Roles
 1. Two Pillars of Trinitarian Doctrine: Equality and Distinction – e.g., John 1:1

 2. Equal in Essence – an equality even greater than what exists between two human beings

 3. Distinct Persons – a distinction in role and relationship (*not* essence), and one that includes an eternal relationship of authority and submission

 - B. Genesis 1:26-28 “. . . Let us make man in our image . . . male and female he created them”
 1. Equal in Essence

 2. Distinct in Role/Function (see pp. 5-7 of “Egalitarian & Complementarian Positions”)

 - C. Confirmed by 1 Cor 11:3 “. . . Christ is the head of every man, and man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

- III. The Pattern of Created Marriage **from Christ and the Church**
 - A. Genesis 2:18-25 “. . . This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman’ for she was taken from ‘man’ . . . and the two shall become one flesh.”

 - B. Ephesians 5:22-33 “. . . This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the Church”
 1. Wives: Submit to (or respect, v. 33) your husbands as the Church submits to Christ

 2. Husbands: Love your wives as Christ loves the Church

- IV. Conclusion: Embracing the Pattern of Creation