

The Strategic Role of Marriage in God's Redemption Story

The sixth day of creation introduced God's primary plan for transferring his love, mercy, and grace down through the ages. It was on this day that he made man and woman, configured them into a marriage union, and challenged them to carry on his Kingdom responsibilities through their offspring. We'll learn the pinnacle role marriage plays in God's overall plan and the key way redemptive love can make it all happen.

Tim Kimmel is the founder and Executive Director of Family Matters, whose goal is to see families transformed by God's grace into instruments of reformation and restoration. Tim develops resources for families and churches and conducts conferences throughout the world on the unique challenges facing today's families. He has authored many books, including: *Grace Based Parenting*, *Raising Kids for True Greatness*, *Little House on the Freeway*, *Connecting Church and Home*, and *Grace Filled Marriage*. Tim and his wife Darcy count their role as parents and grandparents as one of their greatest joys. God has blessed them with four children, their children's spouses, and a growing number of grandkids. Tim is a graduate of Bryan College (BA), Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and Western Seminary (D.Min.).

Darcy Kimmel is the Vice President of Family Matters, which she helped found with her husband, Tim Kimmel, in 1982. Family Matters is a ministry dedicated to "equipping families for every age and stage of life." Darcy has a heart for encouraging and equipping women to maximize their unique callings in life as wives, mothers, and grandmothers. She speaks at conferences with her husband regarding marriage and parenting issues. As a writer, Darcy is co-author of several books on parenting, grandparenting, and family relationships. Darcy is also a regular contributor to the Family Matters' blog and writes a quarterly column of encouragement and advice in Family Matters' publication, *Heart of the Home*. Darcy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Family Studies from Ottawa University. Darcy loves being a wife and mom more than anything else she does.

Marriage is a living, breathing testimony of the truth of God and the grace of God lived out in your life.

1. Through marriage we show people how to _____ God's image. Genesis 1:27

A. God joined a man and a woman together so that as a **couple** they would mirror his image.

B. He called this union marriage.

2. Through marriage we show people how to mutually _____ each other (to experience companionship). Genesis 2:20-23

A. **Companionship** in marriage is God's provision to replace isolation and meet our deep longing for a close, intimate relationship.

- B. Oneness in marriage is possible when we consider our spouse **before** we consider ourselves. Philippians 2:3-4

3. Through marriage we show people how to _____ a godly legacy.
Genesis 1:28a

- A. Marriage provides the divine **context** for having children.
- B. Oneness in marriage is necessary in order to **multiply** a godly legacy.

4. Marriage is a picture of Christ's love for his bride, the Church.

- A. God can use a godly marriage in a fallen world to point others to his love.
- B. The best way to see this happen is to allow God's grace to be the defining feature of your relationship.