

God Speaks in Plural

At creation, God revealed His nature and replicated His likeness in mankind. In His Word He established fundamental standards in relationships according to the divine design:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1:26

1- God is a social being; He exists in plurality. The writer refers to God in singular, but God speaks in plural.

2- We were created after His nature. (The triune nature of God tells us that He is relational. Being in His likeness implies our social nature, we are not meant to exist in loneliness.

3- God refers to "man" in singular but speaks about them in plural. (When God speaks about us, He uses the same term and pronouns that he applies to Himself).

4- The term "man" denotes mankind, human race, not a single male individual.

5- Three distinctive beings of one nature and one purpose. Matthew 11:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11 (One but, yet a plurality with a conjoined existence).

6- Genesis 1:27; Mankind is created in a plural existence from the beginning. Two distinctive beings of one nature and one purpose.

7- John 10:30, 38; God exists in indivisible intimacy and unity. God's unity is expressed in terms of indivisibility, each person of the Godhead is intrinsically part of the other.

In like manner, the union of a man and a woman is designed to achieve and maintain indivisible unity. Matthew 19:5,6; In like manner, the union of a man and a woman is designed to achieve and maintain indivisible unity.

10 Divine principles of marriage:

1- Equality. - Genesis 1:26; They were assigned equally to rule and care over the earth. Although each may exercise different functions, their role was established in unity as a team./ Genesis 2:21; The fact that the material to create the woman was taken from the side symbolizes them walking together at the same level.

2- Indivisibility. - Genesis 2:22-23; Mark 10:8-9; The divine design replicates itself in every marital union, God blesses them and institutes them as one.

3- Heterosexuality. - God made distinctively two genders, each one complimentary to the other. The only combination that achieves the plenitude of being in the likeness of God.

4- Monogamy. - 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Timothy 3:2; In the last verse, it is clear that a man who is called to lead the people to the Lord and serve as an example of a righteous life, is a man in a monogamous relationship.

5- Love and respect. - Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:22, 25; **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**; Christ has shown to us the true expression of love, as we read in Ephesians 5, the only definition of love applicable to marriage is the one exemplified by Christ.

6- Companionship and Cooperation. - Genesis 2:18; God created mankind to exist together and support each other. In the role of caring for the earth (Gen 1:26) and in their personal interactions there are at an equal level.

7- Divine Cooperation. - Psalms 127:1; John 15:5; We are created to be a part of God's family and join Him in plurality. Without living and working in cooperation with God, lives become a burden.

8- Procreation. - Genesis 1:28; Psalms 127:3; We were given the divine privilege to create new life (given by God) and partake with God the experience of another level of love by being parents.

9- Family. - Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 3:4; Exodus 20:8; Proverbs 1:8; Matthew 7:11; 1 Timothy 5:8.

10- Unconditional Covenant (Forgiveness and Restoration) - Ezekiel 16:8; God refers to His people in marriage terms where the church is the bride and He is the Husband. This marriage is established as an unconditional covenant of love.

Jeremiah 2:2,5; As a husband, God experiences the betrayal of His bride by being unfaithful with other gods or idols.

Jeremiah 31:31-32; But since the covenant is unconditional from God and His faithfulness is absolute, He will forgive the repentant unfaithful bride and reinstitute a covenant with her. We are equally created for forgiveness and restoration from the source of all love. Hosea 2:19-20.

Matthew 22:28; In this unprecedented and extraordinary act of selfless love and loyalty, God is willing to pay with His own life the price of restoration. In like manner marriage is a sacred covenant that must be defended and honored to the last resource. An easy exit means to desecrate its primordial design. 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

What about those who are not married?

We are all made in the image of God, We are all relational. Mark 12:30-31

- Relationship with others: Proverbs 18:1; Proverbs 27:10; Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24; 1 Peter 1:22; Colossians 3:12-14; Colossians 3:12-14.

- Relationship with others and God: John 17:20-21, 23

- Relationship with God: Matthew 22:37; Acts 11:23.