

What Is Marriage? Part 2**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 41b**

1. MARRIAGE IS A THING: Lord's Day 41 of the Catechism says what it says to orient us wisely to God's _____.
 - a. God forbids all sexual immorality because he wants to protect _____ and because he created sex as a good gift for the strengthening and enjoyment of the marriage _____.
 | Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4)
 - b. Marriage is a _____ good.
 | Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)
 - c. Marriage is not an _____ good.
 | "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)

2. MARRIAGE REQUIRES WISDOM: Because marriage has a _____ for which God created it, we must seek to be wisely oriented to God's created intention.
 - a. Marriage obviously has private meaning and dimensions, but it also has _____ significance.
 | And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)
 - b. Marriage is not just about individual commitment, but about honoring the _____ and callings in which God has embedded you in his _____ providence.
 - c. The chaos we see around us is not a failure to follow arbitrary _____, but deep foolishness about our humanity and the way the world _____.

3. MARRIAGE IS TO BE ENJOYED: We must be _____ and _____ about the created good that the 7th commandment is given to encourage and protect.
 - a. We must be wise about the goodness of marriage as God's gift; beware a false piety that downplays the _____ and _____ of marriage (and therefore of desiring marriage).
 | Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone..." (Genesis 2:18)
 - b. Beginning with Genesis 1-2, there is a clear biblical emphasis upon the goodness of companionship and sexual intimacy as an essential part of the goodness of marriage (Proverbs 5:15-23, Song of Solomon, 1 Corinthians 7:1-10).

4. MARRIAGE NEEDS THE GOSPEL: In Christ, God _____ human relationships, and that includes marriage.
 - a. Forgiveness, humility, and _____ are gifts of God for all relationships, including marriage (Colossians 3:12-13).
 - b. Perhaps the most important point for navigating marriage faithfully is to remember that we are all _____ and _____ in Christ, pilgrims on the way, living toward God's promised future.
 - c. The goal of our lives – including our marriages – is perfect fellowship with God at the _____ of the _____.