

In The Beginning

**Principles and Practices of a
Divinely Designed Marriage**

[Purpose]

- To provide principles, truths and doctrine from the biblical account of creation specifically geared to reveal God's purpose and design for marriage.
- To reveal the value and importance of the marriage covenant in the eyes of God.
- To gain practical information from the Word of God that will benefit the marriage couple with happiness and prosperity from God.

[Principles and Practices]

- **Principle** – A fundamental, primary or general law or truth from which others are derived. Consequential truth applicable to any situation or setting.
- **Practice** – a habitual or customary performance. Repeated performance or systematic exercise for the purpose of acquiring skill or proficiency.
- As we learn and ***practice*** the ***principles*** of God we will have success according to God.
- Godly practice of Godly principles results in Godly ***success***.
- It is essential that we learn and do the principles represented.

[Perspectives on Marriage]

Our study will reveal how God views marriage. This perspective is often very different from:

- The **Couple's** Perspective
 - Affection
 - Convenience
 - Economics

[Perspectives...]

- The **Culture's** Perspective
 - Timing
 - Peer pressure
 - Experimentalism
- The **World's** Perspective
 - Legal
 - Contractual
 - Business
 - Pleasure centered

Principle #1

The **Purpose/Mission** Principle

Have a Purpose for your Marriage

- Purpose is the aim, intent, effect, direction, goal, result, function or target.
- It answers the 'why' of a thing.
- Purposefulness is the opposite of haphazardness, meaninglessness, and aimlessness.
- Purpose defines success and failure.
- God never does a thing for nothing. He has a purpose for marriage.

Defining your Purpose

Principle Practice #1

Create a purpose/mission statement for your marriage.

What is the purpose/mission of your marriage?

What do you want to accomplish?

What does God want to accomplish through your marriage?

Principle #2

The **Preparation** Principle

Create the Right Environment

- An environment is the surrounding substances, conditions or influences of a thing or organism.
- An environment can be healthy or destructive depending on the organisms living within.
- God created the environment for the couple before he created the couple.
- We usually create the couple then try to supply the environment.

THINK ABOUT IT!


Putting The Principle into Practice #2

Imagine that you get to assist God in creating a healthy environment for your couple (The One you are about to create).

What elements are **essential** in your couple's environment?

-List them out.

-Discuss how you can bring them into your environment.



PART TWO

Principle #3

“The Harvest Principle

Principle #4

“The Season Principle”

Principle #3

The **Harvest** Principle

Determine the fruit that you desire from your Spouse.

- Seed and harvest principle is universal.
- Even if one is not aware of it, it still works.
- Everything must bear fruit after it's own kind, plants, people, actions, words and deeds.

Principle #3

The **Harvest** Principle

- You determine the fruit you desire and plant the corresponding seed.
- All plants do not grow at the same rate.
- All fruit does not mature at the same rate.

[Think About It

You are the farmer.

Your spouse is the field.

You must prepare the soil.

You must select the seed.

You must plant the seed.

You must nurture the growth.

You must wait for the fruit.

[Harvesting Good Fruit]

Principle Practice #3

What fruit do you desire from your spouse?

How long are you willing to grow it?

What actions do you need to take to plant the seeds?

What weeds need to be uprooted?

Principle #4

The **Season** Principle

- Having the patience to deal with cyclical situations is a winning trait in marriages.
- God set the universe to run in cycles.
- Everything is seasonal.
- *Good* and *bad*, *hot* and *cold*, *rainy* or *dry*, *prosperity* and *famine*.

Principle #4

The **Season** Principle

- Couples need to know this for three reasons
 1. They know that whatever season they are in, it will pass. So get ready. Store up. Make plans.
 2. They don't panic when seasons change.
 3. Everything does not grow in every season.



PART THREE

In His Image

The **Making** of the Man

- Adam was made by **GOD**
 - In the **IMAGE** of God
 - Having the **LIKENESS** of God
- Adam was made **FROM THE EARTH**
 - He has a **ROUGH** substance.
 - He has a **INDUSTRIOUS** drive.
- Adam was made **FOR THE EARTH**
 - He had a **ROLE**
 - He had a **RESPONSIBILITY**

The **Making** of the Woman

- Eve was made by **GOD**.
 - She has God's **IMAGE**.
 - She shares God's **LIKENESS**
- Eve was created **FROM** MAN.
 - She has a **DELICATE** substance.
 - She has a **RELATIONAL** drive.
- Eve was created FOR **MANKIND**.
 - She is a **HELP**.
 - She is a **SUPPORT**.

One **Image** Two **Versions**

- Both are created in God's Image
- Both have equal but different FUNCTIONS.
- Both have equal but different DRIVES.
- Both have equal but different PLACES.

Equal But Different

The Biblical Man

- Worker
- Provider
- Leader
- Egotistical
- Restless

The Biblical Woman

- Nurturer
- Home keeper
- Supporter
- Complimentary
- Comfortable

Different Drives means Different Values

- He wants to **do**
- He wants to have **sex**
- He wants to **watch sports**
- He wants **respect**

- She wants to **talk**
- She wants to **make love.**
- She wants to **watch stories (life-time, hgtv)**
- She wants **love**

The Challenge

- Each partner must understand the uniqueness of the way they are designed.
- They must also understand the drives and values of the other.
- They must recognize, respect, and acclimatize with the other's values and drives.