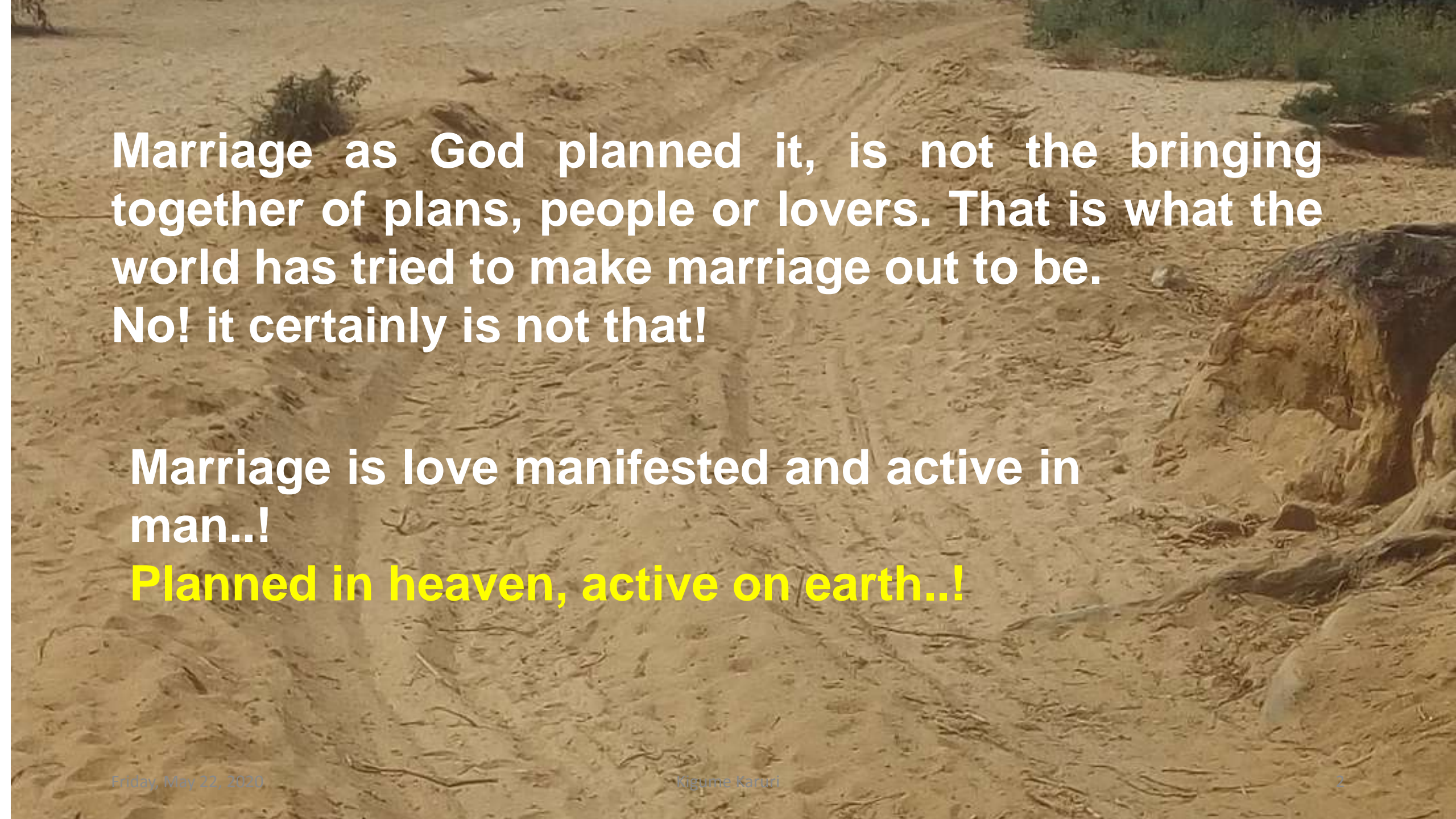


The Biblical Model of Marriage

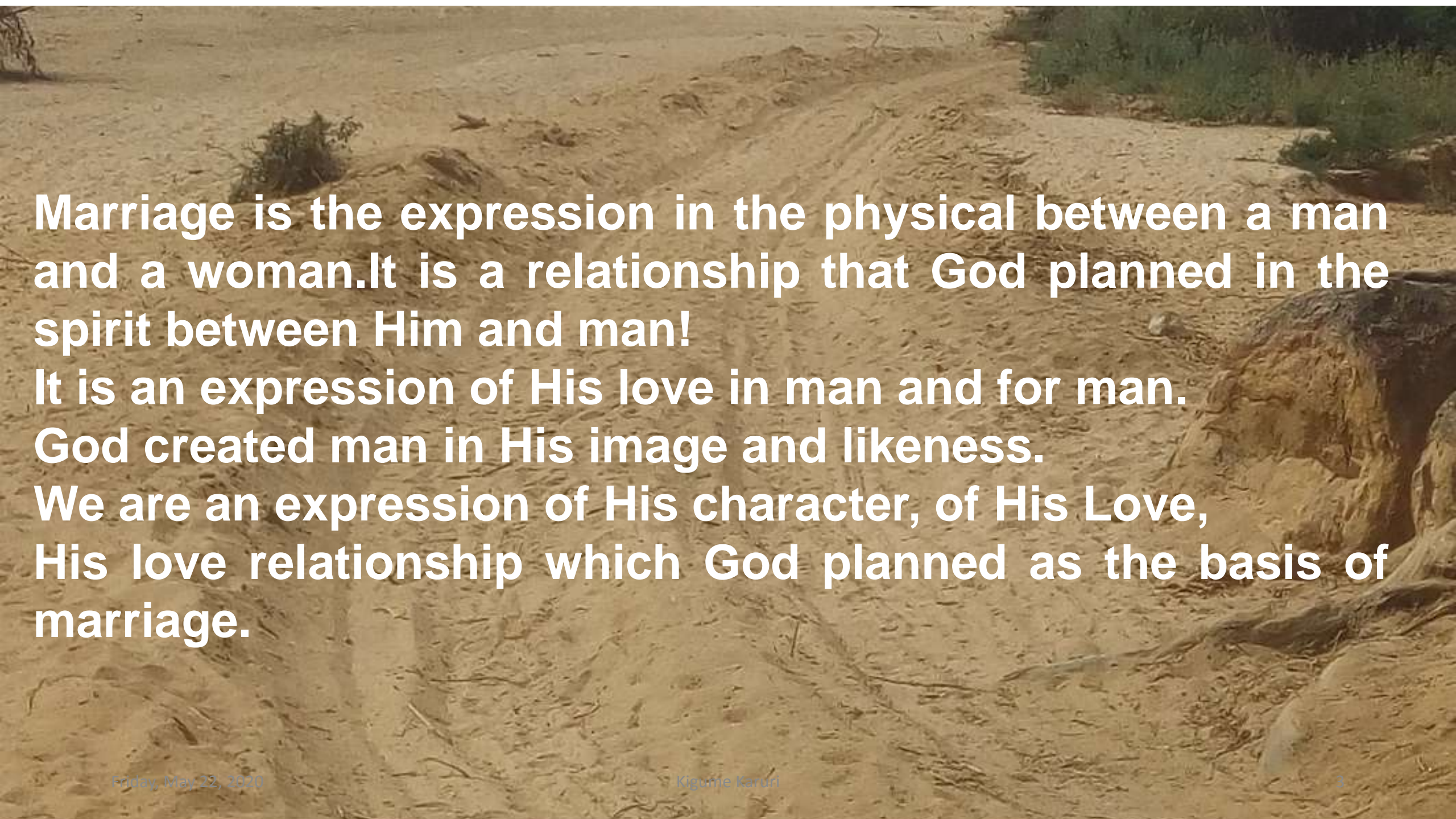
Marriage is the joining together of a man and a woman in a very special way, and if it is done in the way God designed and planned it, it opens the way for prosperity and blessings both in the natural and in the supernatural or spiritual realm.



Marriage as God planned it, is not the bringing together of plans, people or lovers. That is what the world has tried to make marriage out to be. No! it certainly is not that!

Marriage is love manifested and active in man..!

Planned in heaven, active on earth..!



Marriage is the expression in the physical between a man and a woman. It is a relationship that God planned in the spirit between Him and man!

It is an expression of His love in man and for man.

God created man in His image and likeness.

We are an expression of His character, of His Love, His love relationship which God planned as the basis of marriage.

God planned marriage and the marriage covenant,
and for God to bless the union between a man and a woman, their union must be based on the covenant God planned.

God planned the man and the woman unique with that love-marriage-relationship in mind. God put in each of them different elements and characteristics expressly so they would complement and complete each other.

But instead of them using their uniqueness to complete each other they used their uniqueness to compete with each other!

Thereby totally messing up their relationship with each other and at the same time breaking their relationship with God.

Relationships and marriage, as God intended them, are meant to be based on giving (Agape), giving to one another and completing one another.

The reality however is that most relationships and marriages are based on need instead of being based on giving, and has therefore gone very, very wrong.



To have a successful relationship or marriage, it is necessary to find the biblical model, God's model, so that we have the correct ingredients for success.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Eph. 5:22-25

The Husband

What is God's view or picture of the perfect husband, the perfect man!

In Ephesians 5 we find that God sees man in the same role, in marriage ...

... as that which Jesus has towards the Church (here on earth).

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the

wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Eph 5:23-24

The one major misconception that must be removed immediately, is this:

- ✓ **The headship spoken of in Ephesians is not a position of ruling over the other, but it is a position of responsibility.**

Man was not put over woman, but in front of woman. Man was not appointed to rule over woman, but to rule with her .

In 1 Peter 3:7, God gives us that picture a little clearer.....

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

God says to man:

“Live with your wife with understanding, with knowledge, not because you are more intelligent, but in displaying an understanding of what makes the woman different, what makes her special. To protect that uniqueness of woman, of the wife, that uniqueness that makes her the perfect help meet for you (for man)”.

God says to man, honor your wife: The word honor comes from the Greek word, “*value or precious*”.

In other words, God is instructing **man to see his wife as valuable and precious**, and to treat her as very special.

God says to honor her as the weaker vessel: This certainly does not refer to a physical ability or lack thereof, but God is **telling man that the woman is fine and delicate, compassionate and tender.**

God is telling man to protect that tender, compassionate and delicate nature in the woman, from external attack, thereby allowing it to benefit their relationship the way God planned it. In doing this, it not only strengthens the relationship between man and woman, but it also assures them that God is hearing their prayers.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Eph. 5: 22-25

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church- 30 for we are members of his body. Eph 5:26-30

31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 H31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. NIV owever, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph. 5:31-33 NIV

**God says to the husband :
I placed that strength inside of you so that she is safe and covered. The woman is able to do the same and be the help meet she was created to be.**

Remember, a leader (head) who does not bring his followers to the goal is not a successful leader.

If the man fails to walk with the woman by his side, if he fails to lead, to protect, to cover, to carry, to honor and to understand ; then he has missed God's plan.

The Wife

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Eph 5:22

Submit: Submit here does not mean that the woman has an inferior, slave-like position in respect to the man.

The word submit, simply means to place under, to assist and to help. In other words to be that help meet that God created the woman to be.

The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman equal and He gave *THEM* dominion over creation, and *NOT* over each other.

God doesn't change and neither has the position of male and female changed!

God created and made the woman a strong, non-dominant character, with inward strength that the man can draw from that will assist, strengthen, support, complement and complete him.

***Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and
obtaineth favour of the LORD.*** Prov 18:22

Placed inside of that seemingly fragile exterior is a well of strength, that God planned for the man to drink from, and not only is he strengthened but at the same time obtains the favor of God. One with God's woman, and blessed of God.

If either the man or the woman tries to take or stand in the place of the other or act in the role of the other, that is an abomination before God, and God will most certainly not bless such action.

If the woman's heart is right towards God and towards her husband then she does not have to adorn herself to find favor, with God or her husband, But her adorning will be a reflection of the inside that will honor her husband and God at the same time!

The woman is not subservient to the man but rather as the man takes his position of responsibility he releases the woman to support him in his responsibility!

And it is not about ruling over each other, for in the spirit we are all equal before God.

In the physical there may be what looks like big differences, but that is only skin deep.

What God is telling us refers to perfection in unity, a bringing together again of relationships to their full glory, and putting marriage in its proper perspective.

God has no favorites but man can have God's favor if he or she steps into God's plan and takes his or her proper place in it.

There is much that we can learn and get to know about the prospective on marriage. Marriage needs: If the two are going to make a perfect whole, completing each other the way God created and planned it, then **finding God's way and following His way is the only way to success**