I. Truths Concerning Marriage
   A. Marriage is a covenant (Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14 [compare Ps. 25:14; Eph. 5:32])
      1. Adultery more serious than fornication—it is a broken covenant
      2. Based on a life laid down (Ps. 50:5)
      3. Valid only through death (Heb. 9:16–17) Covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:8–18 [compare Jer. 34:18])
   B. What transpires in marriage
      1. Each enters through the sacrifice of Jesus (Gal. 2:20)
      2. Each lays down life
      3. Each expresses life through the mate—“What will I give?”—not “get”
      4. Purpose is unity—“leave,” then “cleave” (Gen. 2:24)
      5. A commitment—not an experiment
      6. Commitment releases grace
      7. This pattern not affected by culture or social customs
      8. Husband’s success is seen in his wife—the wife’s success is seen in her husband (1 Cor. 11:7; Prov. 31:23)
   C. Husband’s responsibilities in marriage
      1. Love (Eph. 5:25)
      2. Be head (1 Cor. 11:3)
      3. Provide (1 Tim. 5:8)
      4. Wash with God’s Word (Eph. 5:26)
      5. Nourish and cherish (Eph. 5:29)
   D. Wife’s responsibilities in marriage
      1. Helper (Gen. 2:18)
      2. To submit (Eph. 5:22)
      3. To support/uphold
      4. To encourage
      5. Intercede
   E. Home—model of the church
      1. Husband—pastor/shepherd (1 Tim. 3:4–5)
      2. Wife—deacon/helper
      3. Children—flock/congregation (Job 21:11)
   F. God’s original purpose
      1. Man and woman together to exercise dominion on behalf of God (Gen. 1:27–28)
      2. Two harmonizing in prayer are irresistible (Matt. 18:18–20)
      3. Two can walk together only in agreement (Amos 3:3)
   G. Prophetic responsibility of marriage: to portray the relationship between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:22–23, 32)
II. Fatherhood
   A. Derived from fatherhood of God—explain *patria* (Eph. 3:14–15)
   B. Purpose of redemption—to bring us to the Father (John 14:6)
   C. Climax of revelation—to know the Father (John 17:1, 6, 26)

III. What It Is to Be a Father
   A. Purpose consummated (Rev. 22:3–4 [compare Rev. 14:1])
   B. Human fathers represent the fatherhood of God
   C. Father represents Christ to family (1 Cor. 11:3)
   D. Ministries of Christ which the father represents:
      1. The father as priest—represents family to God
         a. Sacrifice of intercession for family (Job 1:1–15 [compare Job 42:12–23])
         b. Each father to apply the blood (Ex. 12:3)
         c. Faith of father (parent) for children (Mark 9:23–24)
         d. Father has privilege to claim salvation for family (Acts 16:31)
      2. The father as prophet—represents God to family
         a. Fathers responsible for spiritual instruction (Eph. 6:4)
         b. Discipline with grace (Col. 3:21)
         c. Ongoing communication in a non-religious setting (Deut. 11:18–21)
         d. Pattern for last days—Noah as prophet to his family (Heb. 11:7)
      3. The Father as king/governor—to rule or reign
         a. The elder required to rule in his home (1 Tim. 3:4–5)
         b. Abraham was chosen because God could rely on him to command his
            children and his household (Gen. 18:17–19)
         c. Abraham—a pattern to all believers (Rom. 4:11–12 [compare to Lot in
            Gen. 19:14–16])

IV. How to Fill Your God-Given Role
   A. Acknowledge your responsibility
   B. Humble yourself before God (1 Pet. 5:6)
   C. Trust God for the grace
   D. Be diligent
   E. Make it the first claim on your time

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