

GOD'S INVENTION

- Understanding what is revealed about marriage in the beginning is fundamental to everything else about the home (Matt. 19:1-6).
- This means that the illustrations of marriage and family are not borrowed for Him (Eph. 5:31-32).
- It means that all of the inherent elements of marriage were put there by God (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
- The story is even told in such a way as to highlight certain elements (Gen. 1:27; 2:18-24).
- We have to be careful not to let cultural norms challenge created purpose.

THE PROVERBIAL IDEAL

- The ideal of the home is presented in many ways and needs to be understood in that light.
- Marriage is ideal (Gen. 2:18; 1 Tim. 4:3).
- Having children is ideal within marriage (Psa. 127:4-5).
- There are ideal roles for men and women within the home (1 Tim. 2:15; 5:8).
- There are pictures of those ideals carried out (Hos. 1-3; Eph. 5:22-33; Prov. 31:10-31).

THE REALITY

- Marriage is not ideal for every individual (1 Cor. 7:26-27).
- Circumstances may hinder us from fulfilling the ideal (1 Sam. 1:9-18).
- There are precious few pictures of ideal homes in scripture (1 Pet. 3:6).
- And yet, the ideal picture, remains the ideal.