

What Is Marriage? Part 1**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 41a**

1. **BECAUSE OF MARRIAGE:** The Catechism wisely directs us to concerns that are broader than the seventh commandment itself, and thereby directs us to the _____ that the commandment is intended to protect.
 - a. The Scriptures and the Catechism forbid all “unchastity”, referring to any sexual activity that is contrary to God’s _____ for 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. The seventh commandment is given to _____ and _____ the flourishing of marriage.
 - c. Here is what we must recover and emphasize, over against both progressive and conservative errors: these commands are about protecting a _____.

2. **MARRIAGE IS A CREATED GOOD:** We should be careful of speaking of “a biblical view of marriage” and instead talk about what marriage _____ as part of God’s good creation (Genesis 1-2).
 - a. Not only marriage in general, but also maleness and femaleness in particular, are part of the _____ (Genesis 1:27).
 - b. God instituted marriage for the sake of _____ (Genesis 2:18) and the _____ pursuit of the creation mandate, including the command to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28).
 - c. There is deep _____ and fruitfulness to be found in acknowledging and embracing the created goodness of marriage (Genesis 1:31).

3. **MARRIAGE IS NOT AN ULTIMATE GOOD:** The Scriptures repeatedly remind us that marriage is about something _____ than itself.
 - a. Marriage _____ because God’s intention from eternity is the union of Christ and the church.

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” (Revelation 19:9)
 - b. This is important because: marriages are marred by _____, marriages don’t always _____, marriages are _____, and marriage at its best will be _____ by the unbearable burden of being an ultimate good.
 - c. For all of this we need to _____.
 - d. As a freely given gift, God has placed us on the way that is _____ (Ephesians 2:10), and he promises that the _____ of that way is “the immeasurable riches of his grace” (Ephesians 2:7).