



RCCG OCEANIA

Identity & Purpose

Reflecting God's Image in Marriage

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

Marriage is a divine institution where both man and woman are called to reflect God's image through their unique roles. By understanding and embracing these roles, couples can experience harmony and fulfill God's purpose for their lives. This study explores how men and women can walk in dominion together, respecting and supporting each other as intended by God.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Genesis 1:26

Ephesians 5:22-33

1 Peter 3:1-7

Colossians 3:18-19

Key Takeaways

- Both men and women are created to reflect God's image and have dominion.
- Gender roles are designed to complement each other in marriage.
- Men thrive on respect and purpose, while women respond to time, attention, and care.
- Understanding and fulfilling these roles leads to harmony and reproduction of God's image.
- Ignoring these roles can lead to identity crises and dissatisfaction in relationships.

Introduction

Marriage is a sacred institution established by God, where both man and woman are called to reflect His image through their unique roles. This study delves into the biblical understanding of gender roles within marriage, emphasizing the importance of partnership and mutual respect to fulfill God's purpose.

Scripture Reading

- **Genesis 1:26** — Highlights the shared dominion given to both man and woman by God.
- **Ephesians 5:22-33** — Explains the relationship between Christ and the Church as a model for marriage.
- **1 Peter 3:1-7** — Discusses the conduct of husbands and wives in a godly marriage.
- **Colossians 3:18-19** — Provides guidance on the roles of husbands and wives within the family.

Key Points

1. Shared Dominion — Both men and women are created in God's image and are given dominion over the earth. This shared responsibility underscores the importance of partnership in marriage. God designed marriage as a union where both partners work together to steward creation, reflecting His image in unity and purpose.

- Reflect on how you and your spouse can better steward your responsibilities together.
- Discuss ways to support each other in fulfilling God's purpose for your marriage.
- Pray together for wisdom in exercising dominion in your family and community.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26

2. Complementary Roles — Men and women have distinct roles that complement each other. Men are designed to respond to respect and purpose, while women thrive on time, attention, and care. These roles are not about superiority but about fulfilling God's design for harmony and mutual support in marriage.

- Identify ways to show respect and purpose to your spouse.
- Plan regular times to give your spouse the attention and care they need.
- Encourage open communication about each other's needs and roles.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33 1 Peter 3:1-7

3. Reflecting God's Image — The harmonious coexistence of man and woman in marriage reflects God's ability to reproduce Himself. This unity is essential for fulfilling God's purpose, as it mirrors the relationship between Christ and the Church. By living out these roles, couples can demonstrate God's love and purpose to the world.

- Consider how your marriage reflects God's image to those around you.
- Seek to strengthen your unity as a couple through prayer and shared goals.
- Model the relationship between Christ and the Church in your interactions.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26 Ephesians 5:22-33

Key Points (cont.)

- 4. Avoiding Identity Crises** – Failing to understand and embrace gender roles can lead to identity crises and dissatisfaction in relationships. Recognizing and respecting these roles is crucial for a successful marriage. By aligning with God's design, couples can avoid confusion and build a strong, fulfilling partnership.
- Evaluate any areas of dissatisfaction in your marriage related to role expectations.
 - Discuss with your spouse how you can better align with biblical roles.
 - Seek counsel or mentorship if you struggle with understanding your role.

Scripture: Colossians 3:18-19

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What does Genesis 1:26 reveal about the shared dominion of man and woman?
- How does Ephesians 5:22-33 describe the relationship between Christ and the Church?
- What specific roles are mentioned for husbands and wives in 1 Peter 3:1-7?
- According to Colossians 3:18-19, what guidance is given to husbands and wives?

Interpretation

- Why is it important for both men and women to reflect God's image in marriage?
- How do complementary roles contribute to harmony in marriage?
- In what ways does the unity of marriage reflect God's purpose?
- What are the potential consequences of ignoring biblical gender roles?

Application

- How can you and your spouse better reflect God's image in your marriage?
- What steps can you take to embrace your role more fully?
- How can you ensure that your marriage models the relationship between Christ and the Church?
- What practical changes can you make to avoid identity crises in your relationship?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for wisdom and understanding in embracing God's design for marriage roles.
- Ask for strength and grace to reflect God's image through unity in marriage.
- Seek guidance to model the relationship between Christ and the Church in your marriage.

Next Step

Reflect on how your marriage can better align with God's design and discuss practical steps with your spouse.

Conclusion

Reflecting God's image in marriage requires understanding and embracing the unique roles designed by God for men and women. By doing so, couples can experience harmony, fulfill God's purpose, and demonstrate His love to the world. This study encourages couples to seek unity and mutual respect, aligning their marriage with God's divine plan.