**Happily Ever After** (graphic)

**Holy Marriage**

(Genesis 1:27; 2:18,22,23)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them. …The Lord God said, “**It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him**.” …Then the Lord God **made a woman from the rib** he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man”

**Nature of Marriage**

1. **Man** and **woman**

(Genesis 1:27)

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male** and **female** he created them”

(Genesis 2:18)

“The Lord God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a **suitable helper** for him.”

(Genesis 2:22-23)

“Then the Lord God made a **woman from the rib he had taken out of the man** and brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

1. **Sexually** consummated.

(Genesis 2:24-25)

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and **they become one flesh**. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt **no shame**.”

(1 Corinthians 7:3,5)

“The husband should fulfill his **marital duty** to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband…Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so Satan will not temp you because of your lack of self-control.”

1. A **permanent** union.

(Matthew 19:5-6)

“and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, **let no one separate**.”

1. **Monogamous**.
2. Is a **covenant**.

(Ezekiel 16:8)

“…I gave you my **solemn oath** and entered into a **covenant** with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you **became mine**.”

1. Requires **mutual** sacrificial love.

(Ephesians 5:21-22, 25)

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord…Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”

1. The **foundation** of the family.

Destroy the **family**, destroy the **church**, destroy the **community**, destroy the **nation**.

God wants to:

**Heal the family**, heal the **church**, heal the **community**, heal the **nation**.