Marriage is…

A voluntary commitment between a man and a woman to be each others' loving partners for life. This agreement or covenant is made in the presence of God, who sets His seal of permanence on their acts. *(Malachi 2:14; Proverbs 2:17; covenantal concept).* It is this covenant, which establishes a marriage.

Marriage ceremonies are not described in the Bible; however, special clothing, feasts, celebrations, gifts and friends are regularly associated with Biblical weddings. Marriage is not viewed as being strictly a private affair between two people. A wedding ought to be conducted in such a manner so as to be seen as fitting and binding within the society in which it takes place. In our country licenses, vows, witnesses and people designated to perform marriages are required. Following such a wedding it is understood by all that this couple are committing themselves to one another permanently. This recognized commitment thereafter reshapes the way other members of society relate to that couple.

As Christians, it is our desire not merely to meet the requirements of the government for marriage; but to see to it that our weddings reflect the loftiness of Biblical marriage, which is illustrated by the relationship of Christ to His church. A Christian couple should seek to fulfill all that God has for them as a team who are in His service. Together, they can do and be something that neither could accomplish or be, alone.

Within the safety and intimacy of this covenant relationship the sexual aspect of marriage is seen as good by God. It is to meet the need for deep intimacy on the part of the couple. Within this same sanctuary of trust, children are to be reared, bring joy to the parents and glory to God as they also learn to walk with Him.