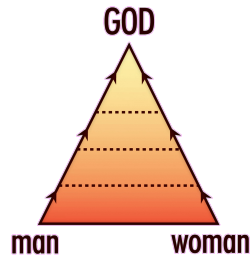


Ingredients for a Healthy Marriage Relationship

Series: God Centered Marriage

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What are the God-given ingredients that build a healthy marriage relationship?

1. A mutual relationship, as illustrated by the Trinity (Gen 1:26, cf. 5:1-3)

- a) Not top-down or subordination (no inferior or superior)
- b) One cannot exist without the other (both are equally essential)
- c) Each derives their identity from the other and never in isolation
- d) Woman is not independent of man nor is man independent of woman (1 Cor 11:3, 11-12); therefore,
 - Men do not have more advantage than women, and
 - The image of God is not a monopoly of men
- e) *TAKE AWAY: Do not demand power, but always give.*

2. A nurturing relationship (Gen 2:18-25)

- a) Each is capable of meeting the need of the other
 - The word "ezer" means "divine helper" (2:18)
 - Marriage is a stewardship of relationship that needs constant cultivation with love and determined infatuation (2:23)
- b) The spouse is more important than any other person (2:24)
- c) Do not hold back, but give (2:25)
- d) *TAKE AWAY: Be content with what you have by nurturing and investing in your spouse.*