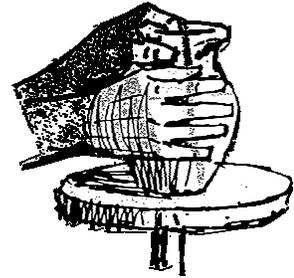


# His Workmanship Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."*

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

## A Picture of God's Ultimate Purpose for the Universe, by John Piper

**God's ultimate purpose** for the universe, and all of history, and your life, **is to display the glory of Christ in its highest expression in His dying to make a rebellious people His bride.**

That's the reason the universe exists. Everything exists so that that can happen, and everything exists to highlight, to glorify, and to make much of God's glorious plan of salvation—and you exist especially for that. Consider four texts that prove this purpose:

First, *"Before the foundation of the world, in the Book of Life of the Lamb Who was slain,"* Rev 13:8. So names were written before the foundation of the world in a book, and the name of the book is *"the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain."* Before anything existed but God, Christ was crucified in God's mind for sin that didn't exist anywhere in the universe. That is amazing. That's not wimpy, and it doesn't produce wimpy people. **It is staggering to think that God was planning the death and slaughter—that's the word *slain*—of His Son before the universe was created.**

Why? The second text says, *"In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ unto the praise of the glory of His grace,"* Eph 1:5-6. There isn't anything else on the other side of that plan to display God's glory—that's the end, that's the purpose. When you arrive at the praise of the glory of the grace of God, you're home. That's it. There isn't anything beyond that. That was what the universe was made to do, to be. God was

planning it so that the apex, the climax, the supreme expression of His grace would be the Son's purchase, at the cost of His life, of His wife, i.e., the church—you and me.

Third, His eternal purpose is for the church to make known His wisdom in making this plan of grace (the mystery of the gospel). *"To me, the very least of all saints, was this grace given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of ages has been hidden in God, Who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now through the church the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord; in Whom we have boldness and access in confidence through faith in Him,"* Eph 3:8-12.

Fourth, the greatest picture of this eternal purpose of God is found in marriage: *"Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church [there's the parallel—husband loves wife ~ Christ loves church, His wife] and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish,"* Eph 5:25-27.

So putting those four texts together—Revelations 13:8, Ephesians 1:5-6,

Ephesians 3:8-12, and Ephesians 5:25-27—we draw the conclusion: **The ultimate purpose of all things is the praise of the glory of the grace of God supremely manifest at Calvary when the Son of God laid His life down to purchase and purify His wife from an absolutely hell-bent rebellious people.** That was the apex, and that's why God created the world, and that's why He created you. God's ultimate purpose in creating the universe and choosing to let it become this sin-wrecked world is so that the glory of Christ could be put on display—His glory in purchasing the rebellious bride at the cost of His life. **True Marriage: At the Center of God's Purpose.**

Now the question is: What does all that mean for true men and women? God created the universe and governs all things to **magnify His own grace in the slaughter of His Son for an underserving people, so that those people might become His everlastingly happy bride.** That's steel. That's granite. What we have seen so far in those four texts (and there are many others that could be used to supplement them), is this: masculinity and femininity, manhood and womanhood, belong at the center of God's ultimate purpose. Manhood and womanhood are not an afterthought of creation. They're not an afterthought of the cross. They're not peripheral to the design of what God said when Jesus died to magnify  
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**"From the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." —Mark 10:6-9**

the grace of God. Marriage is right there at the center at Calvary. It's staggering. Oh, let us pray that Christians would quit having small thoughts about God's design for men and women. We have a curse on human nature called triviality, focusing on the banal. But eternity and the things that are unseen matter. You can transform every simple moment into massive significance if you realize that your personhood is here, being brought to the very center of the purposes of God in this universe, which came to a climax when Christ, the husband, bought His bride.

*"God created man in His own image. In the image of God, He created him. Male and female, He created them,"* Gen 1:27. Now sometimes I think we make a mistake by thinking like this: "Well, God created us that way, then later He sends His Son to die for sinners and created a people for Himself by His own blood, and He thought, 'Now I want to make this intelligible. I will look for some analogy that might be illuminating and work. Oh, look, there's marriage. That might work. I will apply marriage to the meaning of what My Son has achieved.' " That's not the way it happened, and there's a reason why we know that's not the way it happened. **Created to Display Christ's Glory.** When God designed in His own eternal mind how He would make a creature called a human in two varieties—male and female, when He thought about that, He already had in His mind the cross. That's why He made us the way He made us. He didn't make us this way and then later think, "Oh that would work. I'll apply that to the cross."

That's not the way it happened. Here's why we know that: in Eph 5:31 Paul quoted Gen 2:24, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* This reaches back before the fall, all the way to the first marriage. Paul quoted God's statement, then he added

this spectacularly important interpretation. He said, *"This mystery is profound"*—namely Genesis 2:24—man leaving parents, cleaving to his wife, the two becoming one new flesh.

*"This mystery is profound, and I am saying it refers to Christ and the church,"* Eph 5:32.

Thousands of years before there was any cross, God said about marriage, "Marriage is telling about the most important event in history. That's why I made man and woman this way. I intend for this manhood and womanhood, in marriage mainly, but also in singleness, to be a display of the most important thing in the universe—My Son, displaying My grace in sacrificing His life as a husband for His wife."

So here's the main point: What is the ultimate meaning of true marriage? It's this: **True marriage is a distinctive calling of God to display the glory of His Son in ways that would not be displayed if there were no marriage.** True womanhood and true manhood are a distinctive calling. True womanhood and manhood are a distinctive calling of God to display the glory of God, the glory of His Son in ways that would not be displayed if there were not men and women. When God described the glorious work of His Son as the sacrifice of a husband for his bride, He was telling us why He made us male and female. He made us this way so that our maleness and femaleness would display more fully the glory of His Son in relationship to His blood-bought bride. This means—this is huge now in our egalitarian world—this means that if you try to reduce your maleness or femaleness to physical features of biological functions and then determine your role in life purely on the basis of competencies, you not only miss the point of manhood and womanhood, you diminish the glory of Christ in your own life. **Your distinctive male or female personhood is indispensable in God's purpose to display the fullness of His glory.** It's not incidental

to your personhood. It exists because it's God's designed relationship to the central event of history—the death of His Son.

So here's the application question: What does that look like for marriage, and what does it look like for singles? You're likely either in one category or the other, though there are some painful places in-between.

**A Word to the Married.** First, a word to your married people. *"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ... So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself,"* Eph 5:22-25, 28.

The point here is **that marriage, headship, and submission—and the dynamic that exists between them in marriage—are meant to display the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His church.** If a reporter came up and said, "Okay, what's the main point of marriage?" we don't have the slightest hesitation. Marriage exists to display the covenant-keeping love and grace that exists between Christ and His church. That is the meaning of marriage, ultimately, which means that husband and wife, **headship and submission, are no more interchangeable than Christ and the church are interchangeable.** That is, they're not interchangeable.

**Men take their cues from Christ as the head, and women take their cues from the church,** called to admire and stand in allegiance to Christ. Men have the greater burden and the greater responsibility. Headship is not a right—it is a weight and responsibility, which thousands of men are too wimpy to pick up. Often women would rise to their responsibility if continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1

**Let your faith be seen in 2014**  
“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” —Colossians 2:5

**Picture of Ultimate Plan**, from p. 3 men would do it like Jesus. Our prayers, over and over, should be for men to pick up their responsibilities to lead, to love, to protect, and to provide, just as our Lord has done for us.

Let's define headship and submission just briefly. **Headship** is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home. **Submission** is the divine calling of a wife to respect, honor, and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. Now the point here is not to go into detail about how this gets worked out in every marriage, because every marriage looks a little different. The point is that headship and submission correspond to true manhood and true womanhood in marriage. They are not the same, and these differences are absolutely essential, by God's design, so that marriage will display more fully the glory of the sacrificial love of Christ for His bride and the beauty of the lavished reverence and admiration of the bride for her Husband.

Of course, this leaves 200-300 questions unanswered. What about unbelieving husbands? What about believing husbands who don't do this leadership, protection, provision? What about wives who resist leadership, don't like the idea of being led, think it's all 50/50 always? What about wives who do receive it but never express any appreciation for it? We can't take up these questions here. But here's our comfort: If we can embrace this truth, if we as married people can embrace this magnificent truth that our true manhood womanhood ultimately mean that our dis-

*see center column*

## Discipleship Here At Home

### **Ultimate Plan** from left

inctive role in marriage is meant to magnify the glory of God's grace supremely expressed in the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His church, we would have a compass with which to navigate hundreds of questions. We have a lifetime to ferret them out.

It's not a small thing to believe that true manhood and womanhood are meant to display the glory of God's grace in the sacrifice of the Son of God in the purchase and purification of His bride who then lives her everlasting life in exquisite joy in His presence, standing in awe of Him, and reverencing Him and honoring Him. But what if you're not married?

**A Word to Singles.** The apostle Paul wrote about his singleness, loved his singleness. He loved it because it gave him such radical freedom to get arrested month after month without having a wife at home crying her eyes out, and to be beaten with rods over and over, and be lashed so that his back became jelly five times multiplied by 39, and so he could be shipwrecked at sea. Singleness is a high calling if you take it like that. He celebrated it and called many of you to follow him in it, even though marriage is meant to display the glory of Christ. So how can that be? Why would God lure some of you out of pursuing marriage? Why would He do that if He made marriage as this magnificent portrait of His Son's covenant-keeping love with His bride so that husbands and wives, living out their unique manhood and womanhood, become a magnificent drama of that glory? There's a very clear reason why.

In this season of history since the fall of Adam and Eve, the natural order that God established at the beginning is not absolute. "It's not good that man should be alone. It's not good that woman should be alone." That's true. It's just not absolutely true now because now sin has entered into the world, and there are other things to take into consideration besides the sheer natural order that God set up before there were sin and collapse, and thousands and millions of people to be rescued from perishing. The reason

*continued on p. 4*

### **PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away**

**Judy Sartin**—shoulder injury and pain  
**Mark Campbell**—cardio issues; cards to 2535 Brady Dr, CO Springs 80917

**Melanie Baughn's** mother—severe pneumonia; Melanie is in Tulsa

**Kay Ransom**, formerly at Westside—severe back problems

**Bill Dennis**—heart issues

**David Hull**, a friend of **Randy Reames**—leukemia relapse; infection; pray he is open to the gospel

**Josh McDonald**, a friend of **Kory Tope**—unwanted divorce

**Pat Wilkes**—edema from A-Fib interfering with healing of left knee

### **CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

**Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;**

**Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes**—asthma

**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy

**Jonathan Hadders**—RA

**Danielle Huelsman**—vertigo, CV syndrome

**Kirk Johnson**—worsening MS; needs help around his house

**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, worsening rapid macular degeneration; high BP

**Sandra Perry**—neuropathy from diabetes; kidney failure, may need dialysis

**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

**Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain

**Judy Sartin**—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis

**Judy Sartin's** grandson **Tristen**—autism

**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung

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**Traveling Pat Campbell** to travel to AR tomorrow to visit her father for a week

**Job concerns Linda Szymanski**

**Expecting Liz Kosik**, early April—blood platelets low; **Christina Adams's** daughter **Kayla**, May

**Bereaved Pat Wilkes** is in Abilene, TX, for her cousin **Jim Thomason's** funeral.

**Directory Update Pearl Chapman** has moved to assisted living care:

555 S Pierce St #321  
Lakewood CO 80226  
Phone 720 239-3090

## Marriage: Picture of God's Ultimate Plan, from p. 3

that it is not an assault on God's glory is that the apostle Paul said, "I would that you were single like I am, if you had the gift," see 1 Cor 7:7. The reason that's not an assault on God's glory is **that in this world there are truths about Christ and His kingdom which can be more clearly displayed by womanhood in singleness and manhood in singleness** than by womanhood in marriage and manhood in marriage. Here are three things that singleness can say better to the world than any married person can say by virtue of his or her marriage:

1) *A life of Christ-exalting singleness bears witness that the family of God grows by regeneration through faith, not propagation through physical intercourse.* The family of God grows by regeneration, not by propagation; spiritually, not physically; by faith, not by sexual intercourse. The main activity of Christians is to grow the spiritual family of God. So if you never marry, and you embrace a lifetime of chastity and biological childlessness, and you receive this from the Lord's hand as a mercy and a gift with contentment, and you gather to yourself the poor and the lonely, and you spend yourself for the gospel without self-pity—then you will, in your unique singleness, magnify Christ in ways no married person can.

2) *A life of Christ-exalting singleness bears witness that relationships in Christ are more permanent and more precious than relationships in families.* If a single person turns without bitterness and regret from the absence of his/her own family and gives him/herself to creating God's family in the church, he/she will find a flowering for his or her personhood in ways never dreamed of, and Christ will be uniquely honored.

3) *The Christ-exalting singleness bears witness to the truth that marriage is temporary and finally gives way in the end to the relationship to which it was pointing all along. Christ and the church, the way a picture is no longer needed when you're face to face.* Marriage is a beautiful thing, but marriage is not the main thing. It's momentary. Otherwise Jesus would not have said, "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven because they do not die anymore," Mt 22:30. Our marriages have a few years, and then we will experience what marriage was all about, ultimately, with our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, a single person who lives with that final day in view, and finds Christ to be his/her all in all here, says something very powerfully and very clearly about the Savior.

Remember this truth: The ultimate purpose of God in history is the display of the glory of the Son in dying for His bride. God created man male and female because there are aspects of Christ's glory which could not be known and displayed any other way than through the dynamic relationship between femininity and masculinity or manhood and womanhood. Those complementary differences are essential to the revelation of the most important event in history.

Therefore, true manhood and true womanhood are distinctive callings to display the glory of the Son in ways that would not be displayed if there were no male or female. Married manhood or womanhood has ways to magnify Christ that single manhood or womanhood cannot. Single manhood or womanhood has ways to magnify Christ that married manhood or womanhood cannot. So whether you are married or single, do not settle for wimpy theology. It's beneath you. God is too great. Christ is too glorious. Our manhood and womanhood are too strategic. Don't waste masculinity and femininity. **Your manhood and womanhood, your true personhood were made for the glory of Christ.** Father, we pray that You would work in us a great, deep sense of why men are men and why women are women. We pray we will not trivialize it. We pray that our manhood and womanhood would be great and supreme in our hearts, as we seek to live out our marriages and our singleness. We pray that our masculine and feminine identities would be to the glory of God's grace expressed in the sacrifice of His Son for the purchase of His bride and her everlasting admiration and joy. In His name, amen.



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### Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810  
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

### Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

## Assembly Schedule

### Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

### Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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### Sunday morning:

**Adult Bible study, "Come out from among Them" Series, 2 Cor 6:17:**

"Divorce," DeWayne Howell

**Sermon: "How Can a Person Be Righteous?"** by Jim Reingrover

### Sunday afternoon theme in January—**CONVICTION:**

**Sermon: "Our Way or His Way: Conviction to Live His Way,"** by Kenny Boyd