

PARISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL
Marriage and Family: A Heavenly Perspective

Herman Bavinck: *Earthly marriage images the heavenly, and serves to prepare for this heavenly marriage; for the ultimate goal of history is that a humanity may emerge of which Christ is the Head and in which God is all in all (Eph. 5: 32). Marriage is therefore not a Christian institution in the sense that it owes its origin and its arrangement to Christianity.*

Beth Felker Jones: *One of the strangest things about Christian sexual ethics—if you were an ancient Roman—was the idea that we are all free. Our bodies aren't for the state anymore. Our bodies aren't for the big men with the power. They're not for the porn industry or the beauty industry. Our bodies are for the Lord. We're free to witness and to love. Free to marry or not marry, to have babies or to not have babies, because the future of the world depends on Jesus, not on the size of the Roman army.*

Family: A Creational Good

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. — Genesis 2:23–25

Family: Not by Nature but by Grace

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. — Psalm 68:5–6

Family: A Means but not the End

I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness and you shall know the LORD. — Hosea 2:19-20