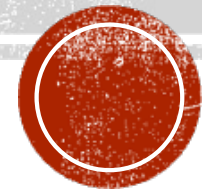


THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

**GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MARRIAGE
IN THIS AGE AND THE AGE TO COME**



TILL DEATH DO US PART

Rom. 7:1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

Mark 12:23 In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife. ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

marriage

no marriage



TILL DEATH DO US PART

THE AGE TO COME

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marriage

THIS AGE

no marriage



THE FIRST PURPOSE

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.**

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

THIS AGE

THE AGE TO COME

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no marriage



THE FIRST PURPOSE

GARDEN

Ex. 1:6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. ⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.



THE AGE TO COME

THE WHOLE EARTH

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

no marriage

THIS AGE



THE FIRST PURPOSE

THE AGE TO COME

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

no marriage

THIS AGE



THE FIRST PURPOSE

GARDEN

work

food

nakedness

ruling over animals

voice of God

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

THIS AGE



THE AGE TO COME

THE WHOLE EARTH

sabbath rest

trees of wisdom & life

clothing

ruling over angels

presence of God

no marriage



THE FIRST PURPOSE

GARDEN

work

food

nakedness

ruling over animals

voice of God

1 COR 15

perishable

dishonor

weakness

animated
by "psyche"



THE AGE TO COME

THE WHOLE EARTH

sabbath rest

trees of wisdom & life

clothing

ruling over angels

presence of God

imperishable

glory

power

animated by
the "Spirit"

marriage (*male & female*) children → filling the earth

THIS AGE

no marriage



A SECOND PURPOSE

Gen. 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is **not good that the man should be alone**; I will make him **a helper fit** for him” . . . ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found **a helper fit** for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ 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.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and **hold fast** to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh**.

THE AGE TO COME

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

THIS AGE

union

no marriage



A THIRD PURPOSE

1Cor. 7:1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

THE AGE TO COME

marriage (*male & female*) **children** —→ filling the earth

no marriage

THIS AGE

union

sexual purity



THE THREE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE

BCP 1662

- **First**, it was ordained for the **procreation** of children, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name.
- **Secondly**, it was ordained for a **remedy against sin**, and to avoid fornication; that such persons as have not the gift of continency might marry, and keep themselves undefiled members of Christ's body.
- **Thirdly**, it was ordained for the **mutual society, help, and comfort**, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

THE AGE TO COME

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BCP 1979 The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God

- for their **mutual joy**;
- for the **help and comfort** given one another in prosperity and adversity;
- and, when it is God's will, for the **procreation** of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

THE AGE TO COME

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union

sexual purity

“What a world it wd. be if most of the people we met were perpetually in this [‘being-in-love’] trance! The prayer book therefore begins with something universal and solid—the biological aspect. No one is going to deny that the *biological* end of the sexual functions is offspring. And this is, on any sane view, of more importance than the *feelings* of the parents. Your descendants may be alive a million years hence and may number tens of thousands. In this regard **marriages are the fountains of History**” (C. S. Lewis, letter to Mary Neylan, April 18, 1940).

THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

THE AGE TO COME

Ezek. 16:8 “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; **I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.** . . . ¹⁵ But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to **become a prostitute.** . . . ²⁰ And you took **your sons and daughters whom you bore to me** and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough?” Cf. Hos 2:2-21

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

THIS AGE

union

sexual purity

no marriage



THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

Hos. 2:16 “And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ . . . ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice.

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THE AGE TO COME

Matt. 9:15 And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

Rev. 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

marriage (*male & female*) **children** → filling the earth

no marriage

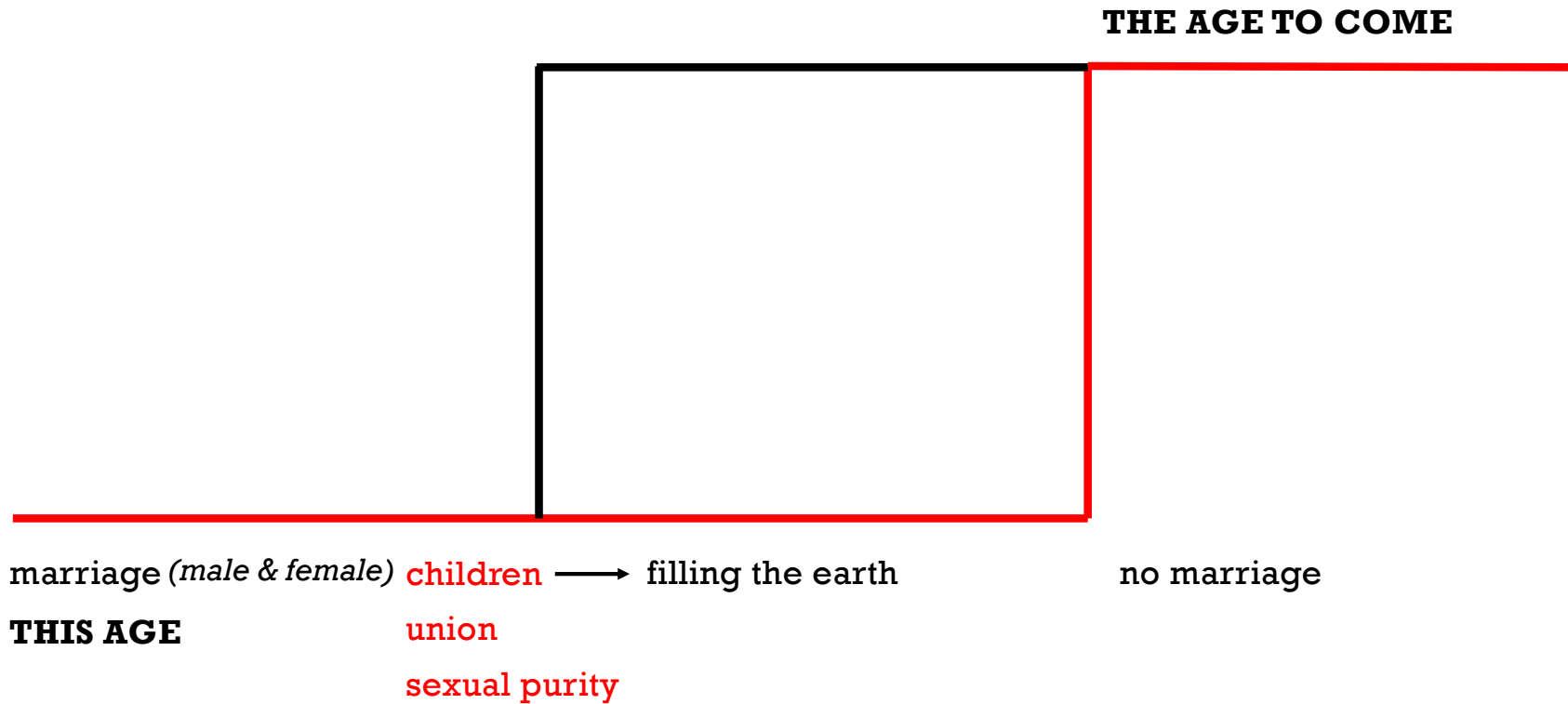
THIS AGE

union

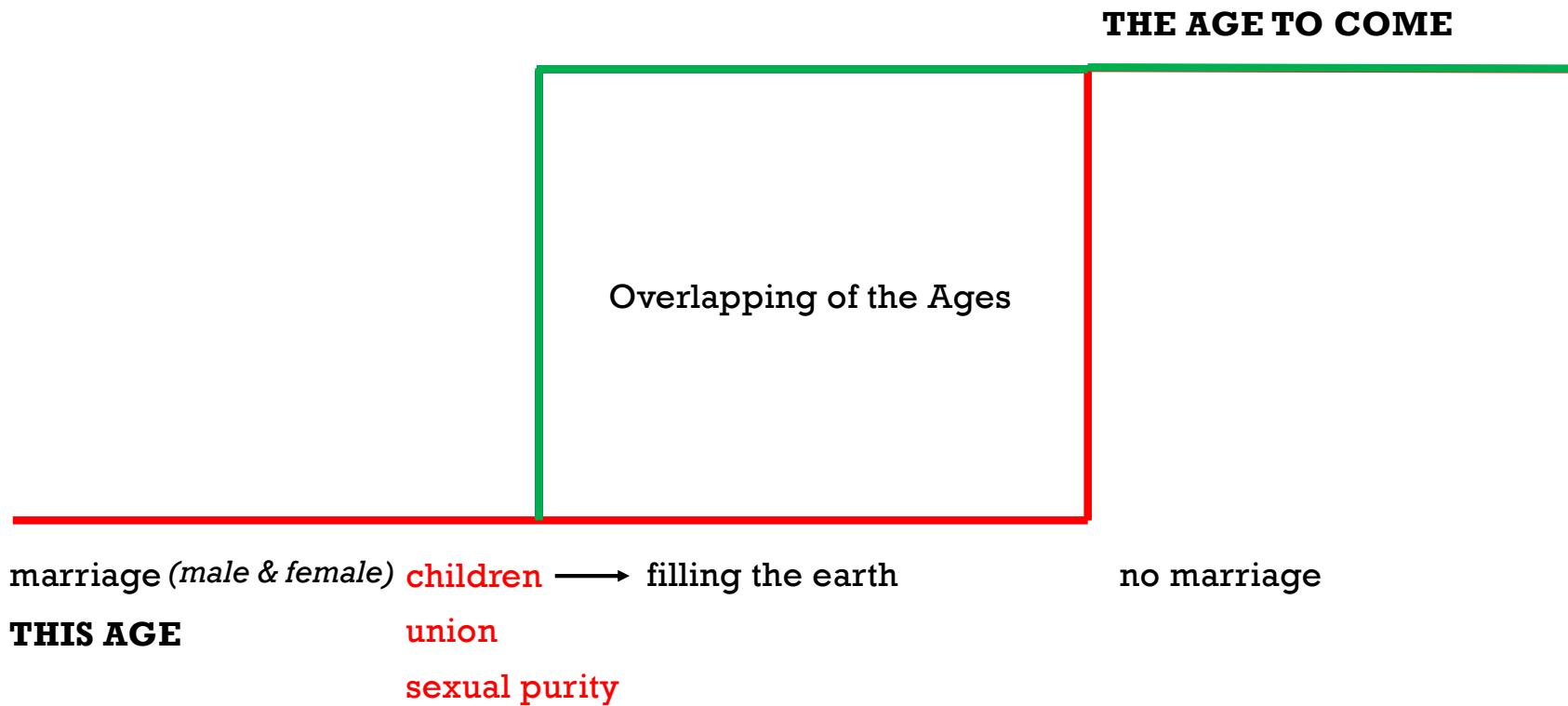
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THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE



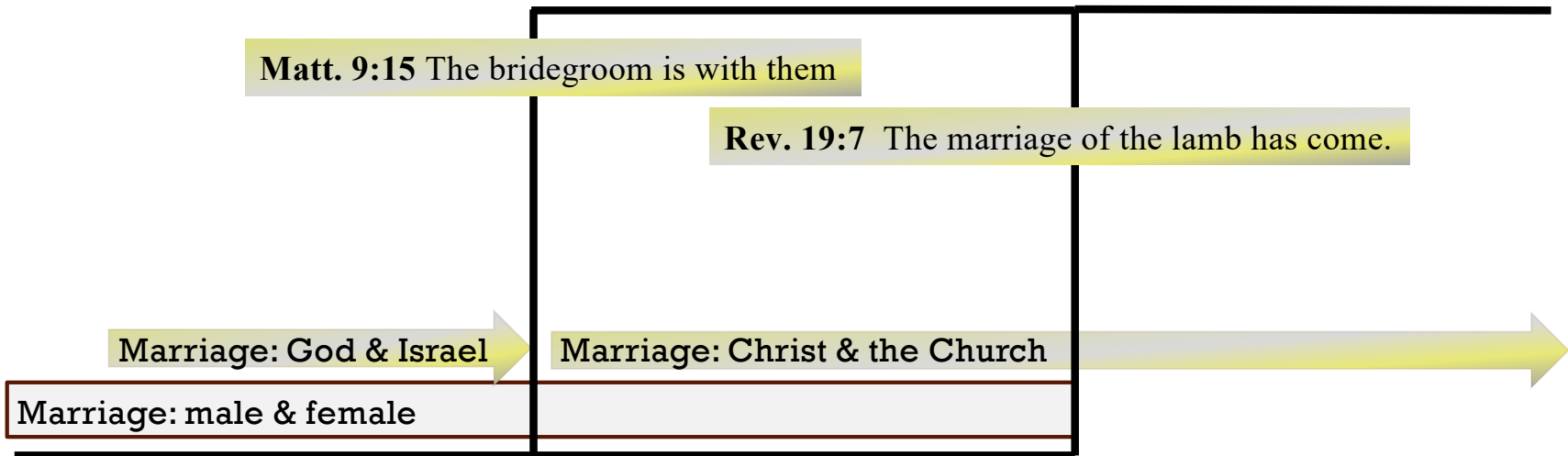
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THE AGE TO COME

Matt. 9:15 The bridegroom is with them

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved his church, cleansing her by the washing with water by the word, so that he might present to himself a radiant church . . . ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound

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1Cor. 6:16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

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“You asked for a loving God; you have one. . . the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist’s love for his work and despotic as a man’s love for a dog, provident and venerable as a father’s love for a child, jealous, inexorable, exacting as love between the sexes. . . . We were not made primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us . . . and because he already loves us He must labour to make us lovable. We cannot even wish, in our better moments that He could reconcile Himself to our present impurities—nor more than the beggar maid could wish that King Cophetua should be content with her rags and dirt . . .” (C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*).

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Rom. 7:4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

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Belonging to Christ

Bearing fruit for God

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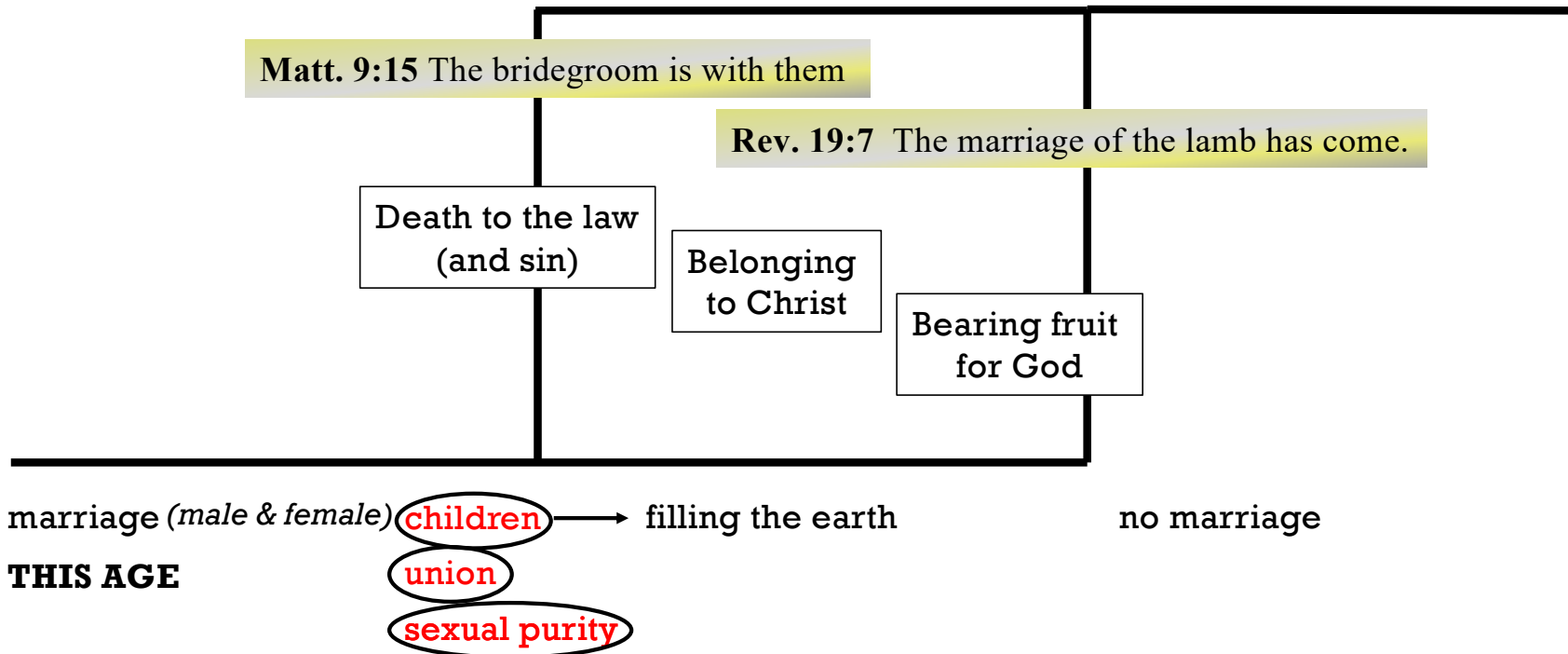
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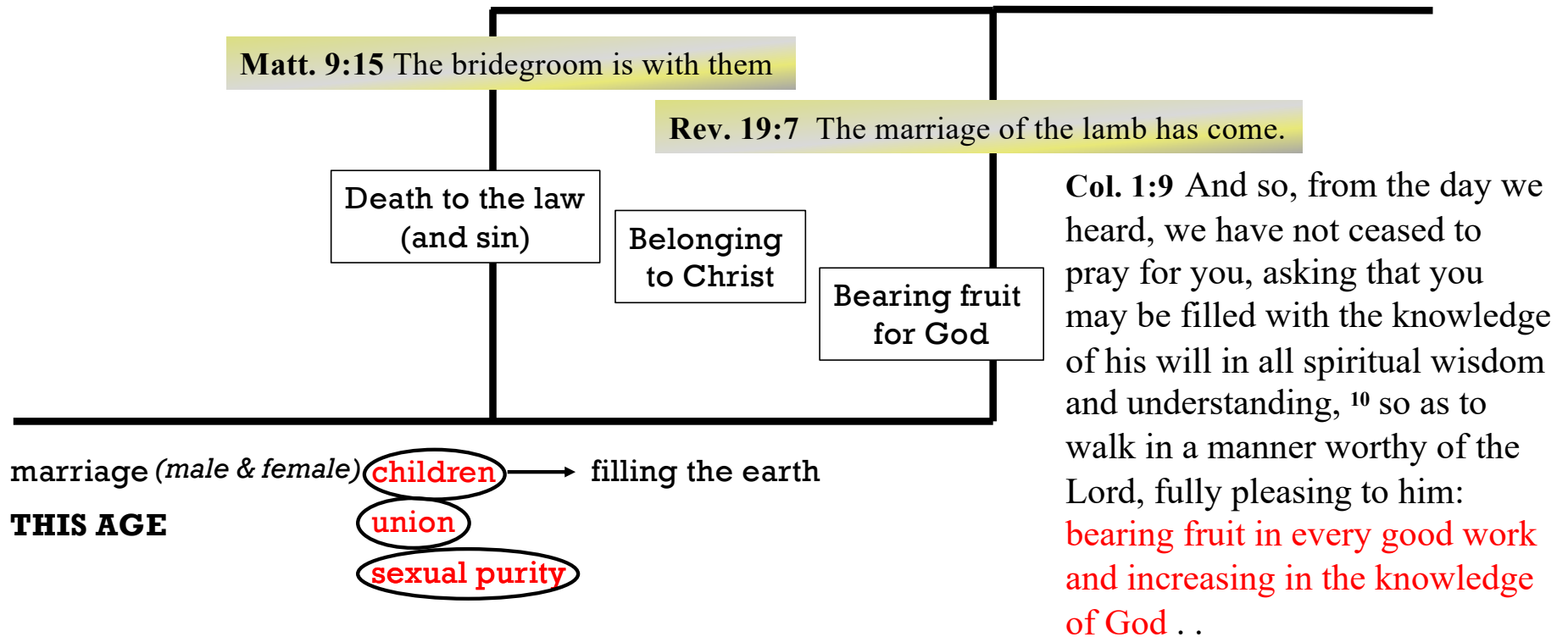
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Death to the law
(and sin)

Belonging
to Christ

Bearing fruit
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marriage (male & female) → filling the earth
THIS AGE children
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sexual purity

no marriage

- That "being fruitful and multiplying and filling the earth" is the first purpose of a man and woman becoming "one flesh" in Scripture.
- That since this purpose ends with the defeat of death and the resurrection of the body, there is no marriage in the age to come.

SO WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- That marriage is also intended for companionship and partnership in a "one-flesh" union that brings husband and wife together in fidelity and love.
- That just as humans were created in the image of God, so marriage was created in the image of God's relationship with his people.
- That the promises of marital union and fruitfulness are both fulfilled in the marriage of God's people with God-in-Christ.
- That there is thus an inward and outward dimension in our human marriages and in our union with Christ.



THE SHINING BARRIER (SHELDON & DAVY)

- “The Shining Barrier—the shield around our love. A walled garden. A fence around a young tree to keep the deer from nibbling it. A fortified place with the walls and watchtowers gleaming white like the cliffs of England. The Shining Barrier—we called it so from the first—protecting the great tree of our love” (*A Severe Mercy*, 36).
- “We turned away from [self], turned away because we loved our love. And we were determined that it should endure. Creeping separateness and sharing were opposite sides of one coin. We rejected separate activities, whether bridge or shooting or sailing, because they would lead to creeping separateness; on the other hand, if one of us like anything, the other, in the name of sharing, must learn to like it too” (37).



THE SHINING BARRIER (LEWIS'S RESPONSE)

- Sheldon Vanauken: “It was now that we reexamined our doubts about children. If children could be raised by a nanny, we sharing them for a few hours each day, or even if we were farmers, children might be a good. But in the pattern of modern life, where they became the centre for the woman, they were separating. We would not have children” (37).

C.S. Lewis to Sheldon, Aug 5, 1955: “Then come to Christians. They wd. of course agree that man & wife are ‘one flesh’: they wd. perhaps admit that this was most admirably realized by Jean and you. But surely they wd. add that this One Flesh must not (and in the long run cannot) ‘live to itself’ any more than the single individual. It was not made, any more than he, to be its own End. It was made for God and (in Him) for its neighbors—first and foremost among them the children it ought to have produced.”



BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 2019

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind was ordained by God: for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name.



FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

The final point is this: some of us are married and some are not. Some of us are called to be priests and ministers and some are not. But the sacraments of matrimony and priesthood concern all of us, because they concern our life as vocation. The meaning, the essence, and the end of all vocation is the mystery of Christ and the Church. It is through the Church that each one of us finds that the vocation of all vocations is to follow Christ in the fullness of His priesthood: in His love for man and the world, His love for their ultimate fulfillment in the abundant life of the Kingdom” (Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, 94).



