

Ash, Christopher. *Marriage: Sex in the Service of God.* Regent College, 2005.

This fine volume presents a very academic, systematic theological treatment of marriage for those with an advanced knowledge in theology and philosophy. The book's stated aim is to re-examine the biblical and theological foundations for sex and marriage. To this end, the book sets out to provide a systematic theological exegesis of the purpose and definition of marriage in Scripture. Owing to its exclusive focus on marriage, the book does not provide treatments of singleness, divorce and remarriage, homosexuality, and other related topics. Ash starts with a discussion of creation order as created rather than constructed. He contends that marriage is a status entered, not an ideal aspired to or a project undertaken. The purpose of sex is discussed in terms of procreation, relationship, and the public good. A central thesis of the book is that rather than taking the place of God, sex ought to be used in the service of God. Other helpful discussions include the morality of chosen childlessness, involuntary childlessness, contraception, headship and submission, and faithfulness vs. adultery. For those interested in a thorough discussion of the biblical, theological, and philosophical dimensions of marriage, this is a very useful and stimulating book.

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