

A MARRIAGE APOLOGETIC

God's Design in an Age of Depopulation

By Henry Reyenga

EARTH IS IN DANGER!

- **“Elon Musk Warns the Earth Is in Danger from Depopulation.”** That headline has become a rallying cry for some economists, scientists, and now cultural commentators who are waking up to an inconvenient truth: modern societies are shrinking. Musk has said repeatedly that "Population collapse is potentially the greatest risk to the future of civilization."

THE BIGGER CRISIS

- Depopulation is not just an economic issue—it's spiritual. Fewer marriages, fewer children, and fading generational continuity point to a deeper disconnection from God's design.

HEBREWS 13:4

- **Hebrews 13:4 and the Christian View of Marriage**
- *"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled; but God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers."*
— **Hebrews 13:4 (WEB)**
- The Christian view of marriage, grounded in Scripture and sanctified by God, is not just about companionship or sexual expression. It is a holy covenant—a design rooted in creation, meant for intimacy, fruitfulness, and the generational transmission of godliness.

POSTMODERN CONFUSION: REDEFINING MARRIAGE INTO OBLIVION

Modernism, rooted in Enlightenment rationalism, began to secularize marriage. It became a social contract based on mutual benefit, often stripped of any divine purpose.

Postmodernism, with its deconstruction of all absolutes, has gone further—recasting marriage into any consensual arrangement. Feelings replace vows. Autonomy replaces covenant. And children? Optional at best, burdensome at worst.

The result? A culture that praises independence over interdependence, sexual expression over covenant faithfulness, and temporary pleasure over eternal purpose.

When marriage is redefined or devalued, it should be no surprise that fewer people are marrying, fewer children are being born, and societies are slowly vanishing.

CHRISTIAN VIEW OF MARRIAGE

- Marriage is a covenant, not just a contract.
- Sex is sacred and fruitful within marriage. –
The practice of heterosexual monogamy where humans thrive as sexual beings in protection and sustainability is God's design
- Children are a blessing, not a burden.
- Marriage reflects Christ and the Church.

MARRIAGE AS APOLOGETICS

In this cultural moment, Christian marriage itself becomes a form of **apologetics**.

- It **testifies** to God's good design.
- It **challenges** the isolationism of expressive individualism.
- It **proclaims** that love is more than chemistry—it's covenantal, self-giving, and fruitful.
- Married Christian couples who raise children in love and faith are doing more than building a family—they are participating in God's mission to bring life into a broken world.
- As ministers and leaders, we must *teach, model, and defend* this vision of marriage. We must proclaim with boldness and tenderness that the marriage bed is honorable, that fruitfulness is good, and that God's way leads to life, not extinction.

CLI AND THE MISSION

At **Christian Leaders Institute**, this conversation is not theoretical—it's a calling.

- We have adopted the issue of marriage and depopulation as part of our Ministry Sciences approach. Through courses, ordination programs, and marriage ministry training, we are raising up leaders who will:
- Counsel couples in biblical marriage
- Officiate weddings with theological depth
- Speak out on the sacredness of sex and family
- Equip the next generation to enter marriage with purpose
- We believe that *reviving marriage revives hope*—not just for the Church, but for the world.

CALL TO ACTION

Let's honor marriage not just with our theology but with our lives.

Let's preach sermons that lift up God's design—not with shame or fear, but with beauty and boldness.

Let's mentor young people into marriage readiness, helping them overcome the fear and cynicism of this culture.

Let's be the ones who see the warning signs of depopulation not as a political issue alone—but as a divine wake-up call to reestablish the covenant of marriage as honorable among all.

FINAL CHARGE

"Let the Church rise again as the household of faith—where marriage is honored, children are welcomed, and the goodness of God's design is proclaimed for generations to come."