

intelligible by all, except those, who have eyes and will not see, ears and will not hear, and hearts and will not understand.

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XXIX. Marriage is a voluntary and perpetual compact of private social life, between an individual of each sex; by which they unite their mutual interest, persons and affections; and which is usually ratified by devotional ceremonies. It originated in Paradise; its duration is sanctioned by the word of God; which discovers the precepts that relate to it, and the examples of its perpetuity. In its nature it is civil and moral, congenial to virtue, and peculiar to man. Sacred are its principles, and its effects purifying. It includes all the tenderness incident to this terrestrial condition; and combines a variety of joys and sorrows. A congeniality of character, is necessary for the regular discharge of its duties. It demands a constant assiduity to give and receive satisfaction; to bear each other's frailties with candour and patience; and with pious scrupulosity to educate their children. A virtuous, affectionate, and intelligent pair will join their exertions, and invoke the blessing of God on their matrimonial connection; of which reason and religion indicate the obligations, and which both pronounce to be indissoluble."