

## Read - Pray

### Intro - Open to Genesis 2:18-24

One of the easy ways I like to teach the bible is by referencing the framework: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration. Creation is obviously the beginning of the story and it shows us how God's world is meant to be. Before the fall of man, where sin and death and chaos enter, creation is the place where we discover: What did God intend? Then after the Fall, Redemption is the work of Christ on the cross to reconcile people and ultimately the world back to himself. Then Restoration is where Christ will come again, and ultimately restore all things back to the original design.

It's important to know when you are reading the Bible to know where you are, and what we should expect. If it is something in Creation that is affected by the Fall, how are redemption and restoration coming in?

Our text this morning gives us the blueprint for marriage as God intended it in creation, even before the Fall. So we have the challenge of learning the standard in creation and then by grace living up to it after the fall in the redeeming work of Christ for our benefit and for God's glory. So the three sections of the text this morning help us see marriage is invented by God for **Companionship, Compatibility and Conjoining**. The last one is a stretch and isn't about conjoined twins but stick with me.

### One – Companions

Read Genesis 2:18-20

Every day of creation in Genesis 1 it is declared by God to be good. The first negative of scripture is the lack of a companion for Adam.

If you go back to chapter 1, humans are created in the image of God. This gives humans great dignity but also great responsibility. Here's a definition of the Image of God that I like to use: "The intrinsic nature God has given each human being to relate with him and represent him to the world".

The image of God is both our ability to have characteristics like God, intellect, creative work and in our task which is to subdue and rule the earth for the glory of God. We are the statues pointing to Christ. We are positioned all around the earth so that by us, you see a small image of the creator and we rule on his behalf in the place and authority he gives us.

So in all the animals that God brought before Adam, each had an opposite pair for procreation and companionship but Adam did not. The point of this passage is to show:

A suitable helper can't be found in what was already made.  
Therefore, a suitable helper must be provided by God.

So we are bound within God's parameters for the sake of fulfillment of our mandate as human creatures to have a male and female as the basic building blocks of human society.

Before we move on, let's establish our first basic principle of marriage. **"God invented marriage"**. He invented it for companionship, lifelong companionship and with the purpose of compatibility.

### Two – Compatible

Read Genesis 2:21-22

Now that the man can clearly see that he needs a uniquely created companion... God provides the compatible solution! When God creates woman, the predominate idea here is Adam's side. It's sometimes translated rib here, but God took more from the man than just bone; He took (from Adam's side) bone & flesh & blood i.e. stuff!

Now Pastor Craig's notes helped me here in seeing that God intentionally did not create Eve out of the dust like Adam, instead he creates here from Adam so that being of the same flesh, they are truly compatible.

This compatibility is shown further in the anatomy of male and female. A male is unlike the female, they are perfectly matched. One cannot do without the other and now as male and female they both image God and rule the earth together.

This leads us to our second principle of marriage. **"God cares about who you marry!"** It is about one man and one woman, companions yes, but compatible as well. So marriage cannot simply be defined as two people who want to spend their lives together. Marriage is needed as the stable and bonding for two people who are not complete on their own but find someone who is the opposite match.

This leads us to our third part, where man and woman are conjoined into one flesh.

## Three – Conjoined

Read Genesis 2:23-24

The big idea in Adam's song in verse 23 seems to be that woman is derived from, & fashioned for, her man. She is, at last & truly, the missing part of the human race. The companion suitable for him.

Woman comes from man; woman is brought to man; woman (Heb - isha) is named by man (ish). They are so close that just one letter separates them, but they are separated. Not interchangeable but brought together. They are meant to be conjoined when two become one.

Moses (the divinely inspired author of Genesis) then explains Adam's wedding hymn in verse 24. Marriage takes precedence over all other human relationships. Marriage, with the relationship & the family it establishes, is the fundamental building block of society: its basic organization. The most basic form of government. Marriage is vital to society. Marriage is essential to the church. When you mess with the Bible's definition of marriage, you mess with God's blueprint!

The one flesh union, where two are made one, it will inevitably lead to children. Procreation isn't the full picture of marriage, but it is the basic picture of marriage. I like to put it like this: if you get married, you are not required to have kids (infertility, hardships, etc) but it is by God's design that you should expect to have kids. To count it out, to ignore that command to be fruitful is to deny the good gift of being a part of God's plan back in Genesis 1 to be fruitful and subdue the earth. You are conjoined in one flesh to be fruitful.

## Conclusion

My purpose tonight isn't to finish out the teaching on the biblical sexual ethic but just to start us. With the basic building block of where humanity begins and how it will inevitably connect to gender and sexual immorality in future weeks. As Christians, marriage is important for a few reasons:

**First**, marriage is not ours to define. It is God's to define.

**Two**, Ephesians 5 and other places, show that marriage is intertwined with the gospel. Christ will marry his purified bride, his church. So we, as Christian husbands and wives display this truth in our marriages.

**Three**, marriage is good for us. It is a sanctifying task. To serve and protect and love your wife sacrificially as Christ loves the church is hard. To honor, submit and care for your husband as the church surrenders its life for the church is difficult. But it is for our good and the glory of God.

**Four**, marriage is good for children. It has been proven time and time again, that a child thrives with their mother and father in the home.

We cannot lie and say that to define marriage another way, or to disregard the importance of marriage is up for negotiation. It is for the lives and well-being of our children and for the children of our neighbors and the society at large. We don't contend for marriage because we are obsessed with other's lives. We contend for marriage because we love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

So as succinctly as I can define it, "Marriage is one man and one women in covenant for a lifetime and the only relationship designed and intended for sexual intimacy."