

Our primary texts: [Genesis 1:26-28](#); [Genesis 2:18-25](#); [1 Corinthians 7:1-16](#)

What is Marriage?

- **Designed by God**

[Genesis 2:21–22](#) - “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. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.”

It is not a human invention or an evolutionary leftover from our “hunter-gatherer” days.

- **A Man and a Woman**

[Matthew 19:4–6](#) - “He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.””

The cycle and pattern is clear. “Same sex marriage” does not exist. It is not marriage.

- **Lifetime Commitment with a Defined Edges**

[Genesis 2:24](#) - “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

[Genesis 3:19](#) - “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.””

[Matthew 22:23-30](#) – Jesus and the Sadducees

What about divorce? It can eventually sever the marital bond. This is a separate subject.

- **A Union of Two Lives.**

[Matthew 19:4–6](#) - “He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”” **What about polygamy?**

[Genesis 4:19, 23-24](#) – Polygamy originated with Lamech, the murderer

Though some of the Patriarchs and even godly kings in the Bible were polygamous, it consistently created problems for them and their families.

[Deuteronomy 17:17](#) - “And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.”

Note that the Sadducees ([Matthew 22:23-30](#)) didn’t mention polygamy, just serial marriage. It is very likely that they had already figured out that it was not right.

[1 Timothy 3:2, 12](#); [Titus 1:6](#) – “...the husband of one wife...” **Although a polygamous marriage shouldn’t be undone, especially if children are involved, it is not a pattern for repetition.**

- **Authenticated by God... Every Time**

[Matthew 19:6](#) - “So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”” **God joins the two in a spiritual transaction... He also is to be the one to separate the two at death. Just like life, we are to do all we can to preserve it, but ultimately its**

duration is in God’s hands.

Why Marriage? (Why does it exist)

1. Companionship

Genesis 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.""

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

We are made for relationship and a desire for long-term isolation is from our brokenness.

2. Need for a Suitable Helper

Genesis 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.""

1 Timothy 5:8 - "But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

The context of this passage is providing for a widow... the men in the family have a responsibility to provide for the women.

Proverbs 31:15 - "She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens." **Women bring essential skills and provision to the household too.**

3. To Have Children and Provide them a Stable Home

Genesis 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."

Psalms 127:3-5 - "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."

Children are the product of a man and a woman. The ideal model is to have children raised in a home with two married parents: a man and a woman. Because of sin (generally), this doesn't always happen. God's Word has wisdom for this circumstances and He has sufficient grace to fill in the gaps. Ideally, this is a place for His Church to fill in the gaps.

4. To Provide a Visible Picture of the Love between Christ and His Church

Ephesians 5:31-32 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

This is another proof that marriage is not a "thing of the past." It actually points to the future. Satan is Christ's enemy and it should not surprise us that Satan tries to destroy His image.

5. Pleasure

Pr 5:18-19 - "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love."

Ecclesiastes 9:9 - "Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun." **See also the Song of Solomon**

6. Purity

1 Corinthians 7:2 - *“But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”*

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 - *“To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”*

Is Marriage for Everyone?

- **Genesis 2:18**

- Everything was GOOD until God evaluated Adam’s state of aloneness.
- It is NOT GOOD for man to be alone.

- **1 Corinthians 7:6-9**

- Paul says it is GOOD to remain single if you can do it without “burning.”

How do we reconcile these passages?

- None of us should be “alone.” However, a spouse and children are not the only options today. Remember, Adam was TRULY alone. There was no one else at all. **This first relationship was necessary for all others that would come.**

- **1 Corinthians 7:32-33** - *“I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,”* **There are trade-offs to marriage and singleness.**

Today, marriage is not necessary to fulfill all of the purposes of marriage in an alternative but meaningful way except one:

- #1) Companionship – **2 Samuel 1:26** – **David & Jonathan were very close friends**
- #2) Suitable Helper – **1 Corinthians 12:20-25** – **Church members should complement one another.**
- #3) Having “Children” (**1 Timothy 1:2; 3 John 4**) – **Not all couples can have children; neither should a marriage be defined by them.**
- #4) Picture of Love Between Christ & Church – **Be part of the reality**
- #5) Pleasure - **No**
- #6) Purity – Know how to possess your vessel in holiness (**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**)

The one thing missing (pleasure) is the one thing Paul addressed in 1 Corinthians 7:6-9.

“Singleness is the gift of being single and not being consumed by lust.” – MacArthur – p40

Why should I Work on my Marriage (for Married)?

- **God commanded us to fulfill our duties and we have a high standard.**

Ephesians 5:22 - *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”*

Ephesians 5:25 - *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,”*

Doing anything “as to the Lord” or “as Christ” is a stretch goal (pressing for the prize).

Marriage is one of those events/relationships that is meant to refine you.

- **It is an expression of love for your spouse.**
Proverbs 31:10–11 - *“An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.”*
Song of Solomon 2:4 - *“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.”*
- **It benefits others impacted by your marriage.**
Consider the children negatively impacted by marital strife: Ishmael (Hagar cast out by Sarah/Abraham), Joseph’s brothers (Jacob favored Rachel). You are setting their “normal.”
Acts 18:2–3 - *“And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.”* **Not only Paul, but also Apollos... how were their ministries positively impacted by this godly couple?**
- **It benefits you.**
Ephesians 5:28 - *“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”*

Why should I Prepare for Marriage (for Unmarried)?

- **Odds are...**
- **When interest ignites, preparation should begin.**
Philippians 3:12–14 - *“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* **When you recognize your calling, you should immediately press towards it.**
- **Get the field ready before you build the house.**
Proverbs 24:27 - *“Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.”* **If you want to build an enduring home you will need a strong support system of physical, mental, and spiritual maturity.**
- **Next to Christ, this is the most significant relationship you will have.**
1 Corinthians 7:32–33 - *“I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,”* **It isn’t that God comes second, but that your service to Him begins with properly caring for your spouse.**
- **This relationship will significantly impact your life and your legacy.**
Prov 21:19 - *“It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.”*
Prov 13:20 - *“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”*
Proverbs 17:21 - *“He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.”*
What about Job’s wife? Mary’s husband (Joseph)? They experienced the same trials and the same blessings.