

# THE DIVINE DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

## Introduction: Gen 2:18-24

- A. The concept of marriage has undergone a radical change in our culture. *Judg 21:25*
- B. Our understanding of the divine origin of marriage is crucial.
  1. Mankind is not autonomous: we are created by God and we are accountable to Him. *Gen 1:1*
  2. Mankind is not a mere animal. We are made in God's image. *Gen 1:26-27*
  3. Marriage is a creation ordinance. *Gen 2:18-25; Matt 19:4-5*
  4. God designed marriage from the beginning and brought together the first man and woman in a covenant of companionship. *Gen 2:18-25; Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17; Ezek 16:8*
    - Marriage is beneficial for mankind.
    - Our marriages are to reflect our relationship with God. *Eph 5:25,32; Isa 54:5*
  5. Because God's Word is infallible, timeless and fully sufficient, His design for marriage does not evolve or change. *Isa 40:8; 2 Tim 3:16-17*

## Marriage Is Made in Heaven: Gen 2:18-23

### A. It is not good for you to be alone. *vs. 18-20*

1. A shocking statement – “not good.” *v. 18; 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31*
2. Marriage is designed by God to make you complete.
3. Some, however, have the gift of singleness. *1 Cor 7:7-8, 32-34; Matt 19:12*
4. Some who don't feel that they have the gift of singleness have to wait on the Lord.

### B. You need a suitable helper. *vs. 19-20*

1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?
2. No other creature is a suitable helper.
3. God made men and women to complement each other in marriage.
  - God created gender differences. *1 Pet 3:7*
  - A marriage is an interesting blend of similarities and differences.

4. Only a woman can complete a man and only a man can complete a woman.

5. Does God create anyone to be homosexual? *1 Cor 10:13; Rom 1:26-27; Lev 18:22ff*

- Homosexuality is sinfully contrary to God's design.

- We all know what it is like to be tempted by that which God has forbidden. *1 Cor 10:13*

- Many believers who had struggled with homosexuality have been transformed by God's grace. *1 Cor 6:9-11*

C. God provides a helper for the man. *vs. 21-23*

1. Why does God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman? *v. 21-22; 2:7, 19; 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26; 3:19*

2. The husband should respect his wife because she is also made in God's image. *Gen 1:27; 1 Cor 7:8-9; 1 Pet 3:7; Gal 3:28*

3. The husband ought to cherish his wife as part of himself. *Eph 5:28-29*

4. Adam understands and rejoices in what God has done for him. *v. 23; Eph 5:29*

D. The first marriage reveals God's design for the roles of both husband and wife.

1. Male headship was God's plan from the beginning. *1 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 3:13*
2. The woman is created for the sake of the man. *v.18; 1 Cor 11:8-9*
3. The man exercises authority by naming the animals and his wife. *vs. 20, 23; 3:20*
4. The Fall has led to the corruption of marriage roles. *Gen 3:16; 4:7; 1 Pet 3:1ff*
5. The gospel makes the redemption of marriage possible. *2 Cor 5:17; Eph 5:22ff*

God Gives Foundational Directives for Marriage *Gen 2:24-25; Mt 19:5; Mark 10:7; Eph 5:31; 1 Co 6:16*

A. Leave – Your marriage creates a new family unit.

1. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship.
  - The parent/child relationship is temporary and changing.
  - Grown children honor their parents, but are no longer subject to them. *Exod 20:12; Mark 7:9-13*

2. Failure to leave is a violation of God's design – geographically, economically, emotionally.

- Is it ever a good idea for a young couple to live with their parents?

- Is it wrong for parents to help their married children financially? *2 Cor 12:14*

B. Cleave – a husband and wife are joined in a lifelong covenant of companionship.

1. Marriage is a covenant commitment.

2. Divorce is a sinful violation of God's design. *Matt 19:3-9; Mal 2:14-16*

3. God allows protection for the innocent party when a spouse violates the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment. *Matt 5:32; 1 Cor 7:15-16*

4. Some Christians, by faith, stay in hard marriages. *Ps 15:4; Prov 3:5-6*

5. Some hard marriages are transformed by God's grace.

6. It is not enough to merely remain legally married.

7. Marriage is designed by God to be the most personally intimate of human relationships.

*Mal 2:14; Song of Solomon*

8. Emotional intimacy, including flirtation, with anyone other than your spouse violates your marriage vows.

C. One flesh – The sexual union is designed by God to be a blessing within marriage.

1. The sexual union is the sign of the covenant commitment of marriage.

2. The sexual union is designed by God to produce the blessing of children. *Gen 1:28; Ps 127*

3. The sexual union is given by God for the enjoyment of both husband and wife. *Prov 5:8-9; Heb 13:4; Song 1:1ff; Deut 24:5*

4. Any sexual expression outside of marriage is a sinful and destructive misuse of God's gift – adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexuality, lust, etc. *Heb 13:4; Eph 5:5; 1 Cor 6:9, 15-20; 7:4; Exod 20:14; Prov 7:27; Matt 5:27-28; Job 31:1; Rom 1:26-27; Lev 18:22-25; 20:13, 15; Deut 22:5*

5. Sexual sin is a heart problem. *Mark 7:21-23; Prov 4:23; Gen 39:9*

6. God judges sexual sin. *Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 6:9f; Prov 5:20-21; 6:26, 32-33; Rom 1:27, 32*

7. Neglecting one's spouse's sexual needs is a violation of God's design. *1 Cor 7:3-5*

## Concluding Applications



### Books

Green, Rob, *Tying the Knot*.

Harvey, Dave, *When Sinners Say I Do*.

Keller, Tim, *The Meaning of Marriage*.

Tripp, Paul, *What Did You Expect?*



### Audios

Baker, Ernie. "Marry Wisely, Marry Well."

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Grace."

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Sin."

Newheiser, Jim. "Singleness, Dating and Courtship."