



# RCCG OCEANIA

Family & Parenting

## UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE ROLES

### AT A GLANCE

#### BIG IDEA

Marriage is a sacred institution designed by God with specific roles for men and women. Understanding these roles and the nature of divorce can help individuals build stronger, more fulfilling relationships. Jesus' teachings provide clarity on these issues, offering guidance for navigating marital challenges.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 19

Genesis 2:18-24

Ephesians 5:22-33

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Marriage is about meeting the needs of the other person.
- Divorce is a sign of deeper issues and lacks closure.
- God's design for marriage includes specific roles for men and women.
- Jesus' teachings in Matthew 19 clarify the nature of divorce.
- The qualities of an ideal partner include a clear self-image and a protective nature.

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a foundational institution established by God, intended to reflect His love and order. Understanding the roles within marriage and the implications of divorce is crucial for building strong, lasting relationships. This study explores biblical teachings on these topics, offering insights into God's design for marriage and the guidance provided by Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE READING

- **Matthew 19** — Explores Jesus' response to the Pharisees about divorce, highlighting the seriousness of marriage.
- **Genesis 2:18-24** — Describes the creation of man and woman, establishing the foundational roles in marriage.

## KEY POINTS

1. **THE NATURE OF DIVORCE** — Divorce is depicted in Scripture as a serious issue, often considered worse than death due to the lack of closure it brings. It is a sign of deeper relational problems that need addressing. Jesus' teachings in Matthew 19 emphasize the gravity of divorce and the importance of understanding its implications.
  - Reflect on the reasons behind marital conflicts and seek resolution.
  - Consider the long-term impact of divorce on families and communities.
  - Seek counsel and support when facing marital challenges.

Scripture: Matthew 19

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

2. ROLES IN MARRIAGE — God's design for marriage includes distinct roles for men and women. The woman is described as a helper, while the man is seen as a leader and protector. These roles are not about superiority but about complementing each other to fulfill God's purpose for marriage.
  - Discuss with your spouse how you can better fulfill your roles in marriage.
  - Pray for wisdom and strength to live out your role as designed by God.
  - Encourage each other in your unique contributions to the marriage.

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24

## KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. **QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL PARTNER** — An ideal partner possesses qualities such as a clear self-image, a strong work ethic, and the ability to cultivate and protect their relationship. These qualities help in building a strong foundation for marriage.

- Identify areas where you can grow to become a better partner.
- Support your partner in developing their strengths.
- Commit to ongoing personal and relational growth.

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24

4. **MEETING NEEDS IN RELATIONSHIPS** — Marriage is fundamentally about meeting the needs of the other person, rather than focusing on one's own needs. This selfless approach fosters a loving and supportive relationship.

- Regularly ask your partner how you can support them.
- Practice active listening to understand your partner's needs.
- Make sacrifices to prioritize your partner's well-being.

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

### OBSERVATION

- What does Jesus say about divorce in Matthew 19?
- How does Genesis 2 describe the creation of man and woman?

### INTERPRETATION

- Why is divorce considered a serious issue in the Bible?
- How do the roles of men and women in marriage reflect God's design?
- What qualities make someone an ideal partner according to Scripture?

## APPLICATION

- How can you apply Jesus' teachings on marriage and divorce in your life?
- In what ways can you better fulfill your role in marriage?
- What steps can you take to meet the needs of your partner more effectively?

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom to understand and fulfill God's design for marriage roles.
- Ask for guidance and strength in navigating marital challenges.
- Seek God's grace in building a strong, supportive marriage.
- Pray for healing and reconciliation in relationships affected by divorce.

## NEXT STEP

Reflect on your role in marriage and seek ways to align with biblical teachings.

## CONCLUSION

Understanding the biblical perspective on marriage roles and divorce is essential for nurturing healthy relationships. By embracing God's design and Jesus' teachings, individuals can navigate marital challenges with wisdom and grace, building a foundation that honors God and strengthens their union.