



RCCG OCEANIA

Relationships

GOD'S DESIGN FOR RELATIONSHIPS

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Discover how God's original design for relationships, as seen in the creation of Adam and Eve, sets the foundation for understanding marriage, singleness, and the roles of men and women. By examining key scriptures, we can better understand how to cultivate healthy relationships that align with divine intentions.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 19:3

Genesis 2:15

Joel 2

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Divorce is a symptom of deeper relational issues.
- God's design for marriage includes distinct roles for men and women.
- Understanding self-image in God's image is foundational for relationships.
- The responsibilities given to Adam highlight the importance of work and cultivation.
- The prophecy in Joel emphasizes the spiritual roles of men and women.

INTRODUCTION

Relationships are a fundamental part of human existence, and understanding God's design for them can lead to healthier and more fulfilling connections. By exploring key biblical passages, we can gain insight into the roles and responsibilities within relationships, including marriage and singleness.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Matthew 19:3-6** — Jesus addresses the Pharisees' question on divorce by pointing back to creation, highlighting the original intent for marriage.
- **Genesis 2:15-24** — This passage outlines the responsibilities given to Adam, emphasizing the importance of work and stewardship in relationships.
- **Joel 2:28-29** — This prophecy speaks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, affecting men and women and their roles in God's plan.

KEY POINTS

1. UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE — Divorce is not the root problem but a symptom of deeper issues within a relationship. Jesus, in Matthew 19:3-6, points back to the creation narrative to emphasize the original intent for marriage. Addressing these underlying problems is crucial for healing and restoration in relationships.

- Reflect on any unresolved issues in your relationships that may lead to conflict.
- Seek counseling or guidance to address deep-seated relational problems.
- Pray for wisdom and understanding to navigate difficult relational dynamics.

Scripture: Matthew 19:3-6

2. ROLES IN MARRIAGE — God's design for marriage includes specific roles for men and women, as seen in Genesis 2:15-24. Men are often seen as providers, while women are nurturers. Understanding and embracing these roles can strengthen marital bonds and lead to a more harmonious relationship.

- Discuss with your partner how you can better fulfill your roles in the relationship.
- Identify areas where you can support each other in your respective roles.
- Pray together for guidance in fulfilling your God-given roles.

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-24

3. BIBLICAL SELF-IMAGE — Recognizing oneself as made in God's image is essential for healthy relationships. This understanding influences how individuals interact with their partners and can lead to greater self-respect and respect for others.

- Reflect on how being made in God's image affects your view of yourself and others.
- Encourage your partner by affirming their value as an image-bearer of God.
- Seek to see others through the lens of God's image in them.

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-24

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

4. SPIRITUAL ROLES AND PROPHECY — Joel's prophecy about the Holy Spirit highlights the spiritual roles of men and women, underscoring the importance of spiritual alignment in relationships. This outpouring of the Spirit empowers both men and women to fulfill their roles in God's plan.

- Explore how you can be more spiritually aligned with your partner.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in fulfilling your spiritual roles.
- Engage in spiritual practices together to strengthen your relationship.

Scripture: **Joel 2:28-29**

GROUP DISCUSSION

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

OBSERVATION

- What does Matthew 19:3-6 reveal about Jesus' view on divorce?
- How does Genesis 2:15-24 describe the roles given to Adam?
- What is the significance of the prophecy in Joel 2:28-29 regarding men and women?

INTERPRETATION

- Why does Jesus refer back to creation when discussing divorce?
- How do the roles outlined in Genesis 2:15-24 contribute to a healthy relationship?
- What does the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Joel 2:28-29 imply about spiritual roles?

APPLICATION

- How can you address underlying issues in your relationships to prevent conflict?
- In what ways can you and your partner better fulfill your respective roles?
- How can understanding your identity in God's image improve your relationships?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom to understand and embrace God's design for relationships.
- Ask for guidance in fulfilling your roles within marriage or singleness.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's empowerment to align spiritually with your partner.
- Pray for healing and restoration in relationships facing challenges.

NEXT STEP

Reflect on your current relationships and identify ways to align them more closely with God's original design as outlined in Scripture.

CONCLUSION

Understanding God's design for relationships provides a foundation for building strong and healthy connections. By embracing the roles and responsibilities outlined in Scripture, individuals can cultivate relationships that reflect divine intentions and lead to mutual growth and fulfillment.