



RCCG OCEANIA

Family & Parenting

UNDERSTANDING DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE

AT A GLANCE

BIG IDEA

Marriage is a sacred institution established by God, intended to reflect His image and purpose.

Understanding the original intent of marriage, as well as the roles and responsibilities within it, can help address the root causes of divorce. By aligning with biblical principles, couples can build stronger, more fulfilling relationships.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 19:3-6

Genesis 2:18-25

Ephesians 5:22-33

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Divorce is a symptom of deeper issues within a marriage.
- Marriage was designed by God to be a lifelong union.
- Understanding and fulfilling biblical roles strengthens marriage.
- A man's primary need is often physical intimacy, while a woman's is affection.
- Choosing a partner should be based on biblical criteria and shared vision.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a foundational institution established by God, meant to reflect His divine image and purpose. In exploring the biblical foundations of marriage and divorce, we can gain insights into how to build stronger relationships that align with God's original design.

SCRIPTURE READING

- **Matthew 19:3-6** — Jesus addresses the Pharisees' question on divorce, emphasizing the original intent of marriage as a lifelong union.
- **Genesis 2:18-25** — The creation of Adam and Eve as the first marriage, highlighting God's design for companionship and unity.
- **Ephesians 5:22-33** — Instructions for husbands and wives on how to love and respect each other, reflecting Christ's relationship with the church.

KEY POINTS

1. THE ORIGINAL DESIGN OF MARRIAGE — Marriage was created by God as a union between a man and a woman, intended to reflect His image and purpose. In Matthew 19:3-6, Jesus reminds the Pharisees of the original intent of marriage, highlighting its sacred and lifelong nature. Genesis 2:18-25 describes the creation of Adam and Eve, illustrating God's design for companionship and unity. Understanding this original design helps address the root causes of divorce by realigning with God's purpose.

- Reflect on the purpose of marriage as a reflection of God's image.
- Discuss with your partner how your marriage aligns with God's original design.
- Identify areas in your marriage that need realignment with biblical principles.

Scripture: [Matthew 19:3-6](#)

[Genesis 2:18-25](#)

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES — Biblical marriage involves understanding and fulfilling specific roles and responsibilities. Ephesians 5:22-33 provides guidance for husbands and wives, emphasizing love and respect. Recognizing a man's need for intimacy and a woman's need for affection can strengthen the marital bond. By fulfilling these roles, couples can reflect the relationship between Christ and the church.

- Evaluate how well you and your partner fulfill your biblical roles.
- Discuss ways to better meet each other's needs for intimacy and affection.
- Pray together for guidance in fulfilling your roles as outlined in Scripture.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33

KEY POINTS (CONT.)

3. **CHOOSING A PARTNER** — Selecting a life partner should be based on biblical criteria, ensuring shared values and visions. Genesis 2:18-25 highlights the importance of companionship and unity in marriage. By choosing a partner who shares your faith and vision, you can prevent division and enhance mutual growth, laying a strong foundation for a lifelong union.
- Reflect on the criteria you used or will use to choose a partner.
 - Discuss with your partner your shared values and vision for the future.
 - Seek counsel from trusted mentors or spiritual leaders when considering a life partner.

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25

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 marriage?
- How does Genesis 2:18-25 describe the creation of the first marriage?
- What roles and responsibilities are outlined in Ephesians 5:22-33?

INTERPRETATION

- Why do you think Jesus emphasized the original intent of marriage in His response to the Pharisees?
- How does the creation of Adam and Eve inform our understanding of marriage today?
- What is the significance of the roles outlined in Ephesians 5 for modern marriages?

APPLICATION

- In what ways can you align your marriage more closely with God's original design?
- How can understanding your partner's needs for intimacy and affection improve your relationship?
- What steps can you take to ensure that your choice of a partner aligns with biblical principles?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom in understanding God's design for marriage.
- Seek guidance in fulfilling biblical roles within marriage.
- Ask for strength to align your marriage with God's purpose.

NEXT STEP

Reflect on how your marriage aligns with biblical principles and discuss areas for growth with your partner.

CONCLUSION

Understanding the biblical foundations of marriage and divorce provides valuable insights into building relationships that honor God. By aligning with His original design and fulfilling our roles and responsibilities, we can create marriages that reflect His love and purpose, ultimately leading to stronger and more fulfilling unions.