



Family & Parenting

## MARRIAGE: GOD'S PATTERN FOR LOVE

### AT A GLANCE

#### BIG IDEA

Marriage is not an accident; it is a design. Scripture shows God creating marriage for companionship, calling spouses to a posture of mutual submission, and pointing to love that moves first. When a home follows God's pattern, it becomes a clear witness through daily conduct, not merely words.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Genesis 2:18

Ephesians 5:21

Romans 5:8

1 Peter 3:1-2

Exodus 25:40

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Marriage begins with God's intention: it is "not good" for a person to be alone (Genesis 2:18).
- A biblical marriage is shaped by mutual submission, not self-centered control (Ephesians 5:21).
- Christlike love takes initiative—love moves toward the other first (Romans 5:8).
- Godly conduct in marriage can be a powerful witness beyond words (1 Peter 3:1-2).
- Building a marriage requires following God's pattern, not improvising our own (Exodus 25:40).

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is presented in Scripture as God's purposeful design, not a human invention. The Bible frames marriage as companionship, shaped by mutual submission, fueled by initiating love, and strengthened by consistent godly conduct. Like any structure meant to honor God, marriage flourishes when built according to His revealed pattern rather than personal preference.

## SCRIPTURE READING

- **Genesis 2:18** — God declares it is not good for a person to be alone and provides a corresponding helper, establishing marriage as companionship by God's intention.
- **Ephesians 5:21** — Marriage relationships are framed by a posture of mutual submission out of reverence for Christ, setting the relational tone before addressing specific behaviors.
- **Romans 5:8** — God demonstrates love by acting first in Christ; this initiating, sacrificial love provides the model for how love operates.
- **1 Peter 3:1-2** — Peter highlights how consistent, respectful conduct within marriage can influence others, showing the persuasive power of everyday godliness.
- **Exodus 25:40** — God instructs that what is built for Him must follow the pattern He reveals, reinforcing the principle of building according to God's design.



## GROUP DISCUSSION

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

### OBSERVATION

- In Genesis 2:18, what does God identify as “not good,” and what does that reveal about His intention for marriage?
- What exact posture does Ephesians 5:21 call for, and how is it described?
- According to Romans 5:8, what action demonstrates love, and what is significant about the timing of that action?
- In 1 Peter 3:1-2, what kinds of conduct are highlighted, and what impact can that conduct have?
- What does Exodus 25:40 emphasize about building according to a pattern, and why might that principle matter for marriage?

## **INTERPRETATION**

- How does viewing marriage as God's design change the way companionship is understood and pursued?
- What is the difference between mutual submission and self-centered control, based on Ephesians 5:21?
- Why is initiating love (Romans 5:8) essential for resolving conflict and sustaining long-term unity?
- How can conduct communicate more powerfully than words in a marriage, and what makes conduct credible?
- What might it look like, in practical terms, to "follow the pattern" of Scripture when building a marriage?

## **APPLICATION**

- Where is companionship currently strong in your marriage, and where has isolation or distance begun to grow?
- What is one concrete act of mutual submission you can practice this week in decisions, responsibilities, or communication?

## APPLICATION (CONT.)

- What would “love that moves first” look like in your current situation—an apology, a conversation, an act of service, or a change in tone?
- Which aspect of conduct needs the most attention right now (respect, purity of motive, reliability, gentleness), and what is one measurable step to improve it?
- What is one area where you have been improvising rather than following God’s pattern, and how will you realign with Scripture?
- How can your home become a clearer witness through daily conduct rather than only through words?

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Lord, align our marriage with Your design and restore companionship where distance has grown.
- Teach us mutual submission that honors Christ in our words, decisions, and tone.
- Form in us love that moves first—quick to forgive, serve, and pursue peace.

## PRAYER FOCUS (CONT.)

- Strengthen our daily conduct so our home reflects integrity, respect, and devotion to You.

## NEXT STEP

Choose one pattern commitment (companionship, mutual submission, initiating love, or godly conduct) and practice a specific action this week, then talk together about what changed.

## CONCLUSION

Marriage reflects God's wise design: companionship that addresses aloneness, a relational posture of mutual submission, love that initiates like Christ, and conduct that quietly testifies to God's work. Building a lasting marriage requires returning to God's pattern again and again. As these commitments shape everyday life, love becomes visible, trust strengthens, and the home grows into a steady witness through faithful conduct.

© RCCG LSP HOME CONNECT.

For personal and small-group study.