



Genesis 2:18-25

MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO GOD

God established marriage as the first and most basic of all human institutions. Long before there were governments or churches or schools or any other social structures, God established a home based on the mutual respect and love of a husband and wife, and all other human institutions came from it... From the responsibility of parents to raise and educate their children came more formal systems of education: academies, institutes, colleges, and centers of higher learning. From the need to care for the family's health came hospitals. From the obligation of parents to educate their children in the knowledge of God and the ways to worship came synagogues and then churches. One cannot think of a contemporary social or cultural organization that does not have a derivative relationship to the home and marriage. And that is the problem! Today marriage is under attack. It is being destroyed. And if marriage falls then all of these other institutions—churches, schools, businesses, hospitals, and governments—will inevitably fall with it.

—James Montgomery Boice (1998)

Genesis 1 introduces us to the Creator God (*Elohim*) and to our own creation in the image of God. Genesis 2 zooms in for a closer look. *Elohim* is further introduced as *YHWH*, the faithful, loving God who forms man and breathes life into his lungs, gives him the responsibility to work and to obey, provides for his need of companionship, builds Eve from his rib, and establishes the union of marriage.

GOD DESIGNED US FOR _____.

- We are created by the _____ triune God.
- We are not designed to dwell in _____.
- We should _____ our relationships and never take them for granted.

**GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE AS THE _____
RELATIONSHIP IN OUR WORLD.**

Marriage is the intimate union of one male and one female in an exclusive, lifelong bond. It forms the basis of a family and of a society's understanding of love, sex, commitment, faithfulness, sacrifice, happiness, and success.



At the center of the universe, self-giving love is the dynamic currency of the Trinitarian life of God.

—Cornelius Plantinga

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment. —Proverbs 18:1

The effects of marriage on health, happiness, life satisfaction, meaning, purpose, character, virtue, close social relationships, and financial stability are profound.

—Tyler VanderWeele
Harvard Professor of Epidemiology

The happy state of matrimony is, undoubtedly, the surest and most lasting foundation of comfort and love, the cause of all good order in the world and what alone preserves it from utmost confusion.

—Benjamin Franklin (1706-90)

Without question, Genesis 2:24 serves as the bedrock for Hebrew understanding of the centrality of the family for the survival of society. Monogamous heterosexual marriage was always viewed as the divine norm from the outset of creation. —Kenneth Mathews

GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE AS A _____ PICTURE OF HIS LOVE FOR US.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (2:24).

- “Leave”
- “Be joined”
- “Become one flesh”

He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.” —Matthew 19:4-6

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. —Ephesians 5:30-32

GOD DESIGNED SEX AS THE PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF THE INTIMATE, EXCLUSIVE BOND IN MARRIAGE.

- God is the creator of sex.
- God designed sex as a powerful, beautiful expression of intimacy and vulnerability to be enjoyed between a man and a woman who have committed their lives to each other in the security of marriage.
- Outside the secure commitment of the marriage bond, sex is cheapened, misused, or abused for one’s own self-gratification.



HOW SHOULD I THEN LIVE?

- Whether single or married, I need to understand, appreciate, strengthen, and protect God’s design for marriage and sex.
- I need to rest and rejoice in Jesus Christ’s great love for me!

In traditional societies like Israel where honoring parents is the highest human obligation next to honoring God, this remark about forsaking them is very striking.

—Gordon J. Wenham

Be joined. Heb., *dabaq*, “to stick, to cling to tenaciously; to adhere firmly as if with glue.”

By creation God made two of one, so again by marriage He made one of two. —Thomas Adams

The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved. —Matthew Henry

To have peace and love in a marriage is a gift next to the knowledge of the gospel... Let the wife make her husband glad to come home and let him make her sorry to see him leave. —Martin Luther

Sex is perhaps the most powerful God-created way to help you give your entire self to another... If you have sex outside of marriage, you will have to steel yourself against sex’s power to soften your heart toward another person and make you more trusting. ...Ironically, sex outside of marriage eventually works backwards, making you less able to commit and trust another.

—Timothy Keller

Staying married is not mainly about staying in love. It is about keeping covenant. “Till death do us part” is a sacred covenant promise—the same kind Jesus made with His bride when He died for her.

—John Piper