

# Marriage was designed by God

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*

## **Introduction:**

When I worked at the Power Plant I used to listen to guys talk about how bad their marriages were. One guy was always volunteering for overtime because he didn't want to go home. One young man got married and within one year started an affair with a janitor lady that worked there...by the way her husband worked there also.

Most of them had been married multiple times, but always thought it was the other spouses fault that they had divorced. It is truly amazing, at best, how many people simply suffer through their marriages....waiting patiently and looking for opportunities of escape.

But God's intention could better be understood by the story of the man who died and went to heaven. At the Pearly gate Saint Peter ushered him in to God and God told him that He had more work on earth that needed to be done, so he was going to be sent back to earth.

So God told him that he could choose to go back to earth as anyone that he wanted. The choice was his. Most would consider this to be a quite interesting proposition, but with not even a flinch, this man said *“I would like to go back as my wife's second husband.”*

## **Transitional Statement:**

Shortly after Charity and I were first married we started worshipping at the Chouteau Church of Christ. There were a lot of couples our age there. We all became really good friends, eating at each others homes, going out together and having new years parties and stuff like that. We also began a young adult class and learned about the Lord together.

Out of those 4 couples...3 are now divorced and it was almost 4 when you include Charity and I rough spot. I believe today that many marriages are suffering, teetering on the brink of destruction.

God wants us to honor marriage and today I want to talk about what marriage is suppose to be.

## **I. The design of marriage**

### **A. First marriage fills a void in our lives**

#### **1. God created Adam and placed him in the garden of Eden,**

##### **a. It must have been beautiful to walk in God's own garden**

-To talk with God

- b. But God put him there with a work to do (tend the garden)
- c. And a law to obey

-(not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil)

2. But Adam had nobody like himself to identify with...he was lacking something.

- a. And God recognized this and said that it was not good for Adam to be alone Gen 2:18

- b. You see, Adam needed someone to share his life with.

- Someone to bounce ideas off of
  - Someone to understand his human condition

- c. Someone to direct his focus away from himself.

- d. Someone to come along side and help him.

- e. Someone to fill his loneliness

3. So God took from Adam a rib and made Eve Genesis 2:22

- a. So why didn't God take a Rino rib or a cow rib and make Eve?

- b. Because God wanted Eve to come from Adam

- So they would understand that they a part of each other.

- And only together could they become whole.

4. You see Adam wasn't complete until Eve was created.

- a. Adam needed a work to do, a law to obey and a woman to love.

5. Thus God provided and instituted marriage in the beginning.

B. Then marriage is a separation from our father and mother and the formation of our own family unit.

1. Genesis 2:24 *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."*

- a. Here, with marriage in mind, the man is told to leave his father and mother.

- b. To leave means to loosen...or break the cords that bind.

- To come out of the home that your father rules

- To come out from under his mothers nurturance.

- That is to separate from that family unit

c. So here we understand that a man has to be able to leave the umbrella of both safety and provision that he has grown up with and provide the same for his own family.

-I think that men in the consideration of marriage would do well to ask themselves if they are able to make responsible decisions on their own....

- i.e. have they learned the lessons taught by their parents enough to stand on their own and have a spouse be able to count on them.

-This seems to be a real issue in our world today.

d. For the express purpose of forming your own family unit.

2. This verse also talks about a man “joining to his wife”

a. Your version might say “to leave and to cleave”

b. This is the idea of gluing together

-Like super gluing the fingers together.

-More like fusion

-Representative of a bond that is not to be broken

c. In short, this is the idea of the formation of a family unit

3. And becoming “one flesh”

a. It’s so easy to think about what Paul says in 1 Cor 6:16 and immediately think of the sexual relationship.

-But here the primary focus seems to be the coming together of two different lives.

-The melding of spirits pointed to in ....Malachi 2:15a NIV

b. That is marriage moves two individuals into one individual.

c. In a marriage a man and a woman must be able and willing to lay aside their individual and personal desires and collectively form a direction that will promote their family.

-Our world seems plagued with one sided marriages....destine for destruction because one or both of the spouses are more interested in their needs than the hard work it takes to determine what is best for the family and sticking with it.

C. Then marriage is for filling the earth.

1. Genesis 1:28 “...*God said to them, " Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

2. Here God tells them to be fruitful and multiply.

- a. Fruitful has to do with a yield and multiply has to do with increase.
- b. So here God is telling Adam and Eve to give of themselves in the bearing of children to make an increase on the world.

-In actuality God is having Adam and Eve continue the people making process like he had begun  
-With the responsibility of raising them in the Lord.

3. So it wasn't just Adam and Eve that He desired, but all of us...even until today that have filled the earth.
4. So through this marriage that God Himself instituted, He wanted the earth to be filled with people.

a. Particularly ...godly offspring...Malachi 2:15b

D. Marriage is a covenant relationship.

1. Malachi 2:14 says: “... *the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.*”

2. Although we usually think of a marriage triangle as a dangerous situation, there is one sense in which a third person could create the right triangle.

Viola Walden tells the story of a newly married couple riding a train on their honeymoon. A silver-haired man leaned across the aisle and asked, "Is there a third party going with you on your honeymoon?" The couple looked at him strangely; then he added, "When Sarah and I were married, we invited Jesus to our marriage. One of the first things we did in our new home was to kneel and ask Jesus to make our marriage a love triangle -- Sarah, myself, and Jesus. And all three of us have been in love with each other for all 50 years of our married life."

E. Marriage is a union made by God.

1. “*What therefore God has joined together,...*” Matthew 19:6 says
2. Marriage certificates are not what make marriages.
3. Our intentions though great...don't make marriages.
4. But it is God Almighty Himself that does the joining

a. He is the tie that binds.

F. Marriage is a life long commitment.

1. "...*What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*" Matt 19:6b
2. Romans 7:2 "*For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living;...*"
3. Marriage is....one man and one wife for life !
4. It speaks of deep commitment and loyalty

G. Marriage is structured by God.

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 "*Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*"
2. God appointed the man to be the male spiritual leader of the family
  - a. With the wife willfully placing herself under the authority of her husband.
  - b. More on this in the lessons to follow.

H. Marriage has two very distinct components

1. Love
  - a. Ephesians 5:25 "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,*"
2. Respect.
  - a. Ephesians 5:33 "*Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*"
3. They work in unison....
  - a. i.e. they create a cycle of godliness.

I. Marriage is to be honored by all.

1. Hebrews 13:4 "*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*"

2. "*Honored*" means:

- a. Valued
- b. Costly
- c. Honored
- d. Esteemed
- e. Beloved.

3. And is to be kept undefiled

J. Marriage has a much higher purpose than we often think of.

1. It is ultimately the marriage relationship that God uses to explain and define the relationship of His Son to the church....Eph chapter 5
2. So through the marriage relationship we are suppose to be learning about God.
3. Because ultimately marriage is only for this world.... Matthew 22:30

**Conclusion:**

We honor marriage in many ways.

1. By Faithfulness
2. By Diligence
3. Commitment
4. Perseverance.
5. By honesty
6. By love and respect.
7. etc.

Have you and are your honoring your marriage?