

Series: God's Design

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:18-25/Ephesians 5:21-33

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February 28, 2016

Series Update: God's Design

Marriage Misconceptions

I. The First Marriage: Genesis 2:18-25

Men and Women, co-image bearers, given a mandate to fulfill together.
(Genesis 1:26-28)

A. Designed for Intimacy

Genesis 2:18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Genesis 2:24-25 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

B. Designed to Fulfill a Calling

God designed marriage to be a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. He designed marriage for human flourishing, intimacy, and joy.

II. The Christ Centered Marriage: Ephesians 5:18-33

Background: *Our identity: In Christ *Our power: The Holy Spirit
See Eph 1:3-5; 5:18-21

A. Wives who live like Jesus

Eph. 5:22-24: Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Wives... the greatest gift you give your husbands is...

B. Husbands who love like Jesus

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

C. The Gospel on Display

Ephesians 5:32-33: This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Husbands... the greatest gift you give your wives is...

God designed marriage to become a beautiful picture of God's sacrificial love for His people. Rooted in Christ and empowered by the Spirit, the husband/ wife roles become an expression of worship as each role emulates Jesus and the roles He plays to love and serve us.

Application:

*Husbands... *Wives... *Single men... *Single women...

For Further Study

1. In **Matthew 19:1-12** we learn what Jesus taught about marriage. As you read this section, notice that He quotes from Genesis 2—He did not change the original design for marriage—He upheld the design of marriage from the first marriage described in Genesis 2. Notice too the alternative He gave to marriage in verses 10-12. Next week we will address Biblical singleness.
2. **Ephesians 5:18-33** is the longest section in the New Testament devoted to the topic of marriage. It is crucial to read this passage in the context of the whole book of Ephesians. What you will find is that God's design for marriage is that the husband and wife are first grounded in their identity "in Christ", and then through the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to freely share all God has given him/her with their spouse—which shows the world what God has done for His people! Look at these passages to get a glimpse of all that God has lavished on us through Jesus: **Ephesians 1:3-5; 1:7-10, 1:11-14; 1:18-21; 2:1-10**. Make a list of all that God has lavished on you through Jesus.

Resources:

Marriage Conference: Friday night-Saturday morning March 4-5

Mingling of Souls Conference—Parkview Church

Books on Marriage

The Mingling of Souls: Matt and Lauren Chandler

The Meaning of Marriage: Tim and Kathy Keller

What Did You Expect: Paul Tripp

You and Me Forever: Francis and Lisa Chan

Gay Marriage

Is God Anti-Gay? Sam Alberry

To Discuss: With our families, friends, community groups

It is a great discipline to not only study God's Word on our own, but to study God's word in community with others—where we can be helped and encouraged not only to study the Bible but also to put it into practice—to obey the Bible!!

Questions for couples:

What challenges do you face in your marriage—and how does looking at God's design for marriage confront these challenges?

What is God calling you to do together? How can God use you as team-mates to share the hope and healing we have in the Gospel with people around you?

How can we consciously seek to bless and extend community to singles/ widows in our church?

Questions for singles:

What challenges do you face living as a single person? How are these challenges met for you in Christ? (See For Further Study question #2).

What is God calling you to do with your singleness—where is He calling you to share the hope and healing we have in the Gospel with people around you?

What are some ways we can express our support for marriages in our church and seek to bless people striving to uphold God's design for marriage?