

The Divine Design for Marriage
Genesis 2:18-24

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The concept of marriage has undergone a radical change in our culture. Judges 21:25

B. Our understanding of the divine origin of marriage is crucial. Genesis 1:1

1. Mankind is not autonomous. We are created by God and we are accountable to Him.
2. Mankind is not merely an animal. We are made in God's image. Genesis 1:26-27
3. Marriage is a creation ordinance. Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-5
4. God designed marriage from the beginning and brought together the first man and woman in a covenant of companionship. Genesis 2:18-25; Malachi 2:14; Proverbs 2:17; Ezekiel 16:8
 - a. Marriage is beneficial for mankind.
 - b. Our marriages are to reflect our relationship with God. Ephesians 5:25,32; Isaiah 54:5
5. Because God's Word is infallible, timeless, and fully sufficient, His design for marriage does not evolve or change. Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

C. A definition: God establishes marriage as a lifelong covenant of companionship between a man and a women made before the community.

II. MARRIAGE IS MADE IN HEAVEN Genesis 2:18-23

A. It is not good for you to be alone. (v. 18-20)

1. A shocking statement - "not good". (v. 18) (cf. Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
2. Marriage is designed by God to make you complete.
3. Some, however, have the gift of singleness. 1 Corinthians 1:1,7-8, 32-34; Matthew 19:12
4. Some who don't feel that they have the gift of singleness have to wait on the Lord.

B. You need a suitable helper. (v. 19-20)

1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?
2. No other creature is a suitable helper.
3. God made men and women to complement each other in marriage.
 - a. God created gender differences. 1 Peter 3:7
 - b. A marriage is an interesting blend of similarities and differences.
4. Only a woman can complete a man and only a man can complete a woman.

5. Does God create anyone to be homosexual?

1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 1:26-27; Leviticus 18:22ff

a. Homosexuality is sinfully contrary to God's design.

b. We all know what it is like to be tempted by what God forbids.

1 Corinthians 10:13

c. Many believers who struggled with homosexuality have been transformed by God's grace.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

C. God provides a helper for the man. (v. 21-23)

1. Why does God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman?

(v. 21-22; 2:7, 19) cf. Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26; 3:19

2. The husband should respect his wife because she is also made in God's image. Genesis 1:27

1 Corinthians 7:8-9; 1 Peter 3:7; Galatians 3:28

3. The husband ought to cherish his wife as part of himself.

Ephesians 5:28-29

4. Adam understands and rejoices in what God has done for him. (v. 23)

Ephesians 5:29

D. The first marriage reveals God's design for roles of both husband and wife.

1. Male headship was God's plan from the beginning.

1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 3:13

2. The woman is created for the sake of the man. (v.18)

1 Corinthians 11:8-9

3. The man exercises authority by naming the animals and his wife. (v. 20, 23) cf. Genesis 3:20

4. The Fall has led to the corruption of marriage roles.

Genesis 3:16 4:7; 1 Peter 3:1ff

5. The gospel makes the redemption of marriage possible. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5:22ff

III. GOD GIVES FOUNDATIONAL DIRECTIVES FOR MARRIAGE

Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7; Ephesians 5:31; 1 Corinthians 6:16

A. Leave - your marriage creates a new family unit.

1. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship.

a. The parent/child relationship is temporary and changing.

b. Grown children still honor their parents, but are no longer in subjection to them.

Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:9-13

2. Failure to leave is a violation of God's design - geographically, economically, emotionally.

a. Is it ever a good idea for a young couple to live with their parents?

b. Is it wrong for parents to help their married children financially?

2 Corinthians 12:14

B. Cleave - a husband and wife are joined in a lifelong covenant of companionship.

1. Marriage is a covenant commitment.

2. Divorce is a sinful violation God's design. Matthew 19:3-9; Malachi 2:14-16
3. God allows protection for the innocent party when their spouse violates the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment. Matthew 5:32; 1 Corinthians 7:15-16
4. Some Christians, by faith, stay in hard marriages. Psalm 15:4; Proverbs 3:5-6
5. Some hard marriages are transformed by God's grace.
6. It is not enough to merely remain legally married.
7. Marriage is designed by to be the most personally intimate of human relationships Malachi 2:14; Song of Solomon
8. Emotional intimacy, including flirtation, with anyone other than your spouse violates your marriage vows.

C. One flesh - the sexual union is designed by God to be a blessing within marriage.

1. The sexual union is the sign of covenant commitment of marriage.
2. The sexual union is designed by God to produce the blessing of children. Genesis 1:28; Psalm 127
3. The sexual union is given by God for the enjoyment of both husband and wife. Proverbs 5:8-9; Hebrews 13:4; Song of Solomon 1:1ff; Deuteronomy 24:5
4. Any sexual expression outside of marriage is a sinful and destructive misuse of God's gift—adultery, fornication, cohabitation, homosexuality, lust, etc. Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9,15-20; 7:4; Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 7:27; Matthew 5:27-28; Job 31:1; Romans 1:26-27; Leviticus 18:22-25; 20:13,15; Deuteronomy 22:5
5. Sexual sin is a heart problem. Mark 7:21-23; Proverbs 4:23; Genesis 39:9
6. God judges sexual sin. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9f; Proverbs 5:20-21; 6:26, 32-33; Romans 1:27, 32
7. Neglecting one's spouse's sexual needs is a violation of God's design. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5

IV. CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS
