

"MARRIAGE AND FAMILY"

Genesis 2:18-25

Your family is important to the Lord. That's why a strategic focus on the family is a core value for this church. Mark your calendar for September 14th. That's the day we've scheduled a marriage conference featuring Steve and Debbie Wilson. They will be tackling the issue of "Communication" between the husband and the wife.

Session #1—9:15

Session #2—3:00

Session #3—4:00

Childcare will be provided for preschoolers and children. Decide right now that you will make an investment in your marriage and family!

Beginning today and for the next three Sunday mornings I am going to preach a series of sermons entitled, "*Family Talk*." This morning's message goes to the heart and soul of the family and that is the

marriage relationship. Take your Bible and turn to Genesis 2. Genesis is the book of beginnings. Chapters 1 and 2 lay foundations that are vital for understanding all of life.

- **What is God like?**
- **Where did we come from?**
- **What are we here for?**

When was the last time that you were right about something that really mattered? I know I'm right when it comes to what I'm going to teach you this morning about marriage and family:

- **God designed the marriage relationship**
- **Marriage is between a man and a woman**
- **Spouses must be committed to each other**
- **Marriage is the cornerstone for the family**
- **Deviation from God's design is wrong**

Before you tune me out because you think I'm bigoted, homophobic, arrogant, and out of touch with reality you need to consider the logic of a biblical worldview. John Piper stated:

The greatness and glory of marriage is beyond our ability to think or feel without divine revelation and without the illumining and awakening work of the Holy Spirit. The world cannot know what marriage is without learning it from God.

A little background might be helpful. If you will recall, in Genesis 1 the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to record how God (Elohim) created the world and filled it within 6 twenty-four-hour days. Here's a key verse in chapter 1...

Genesis 1:27... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

As we flip the page to Genesis 2, we discover that there's a new name for God. He is referred to repeatedly as **"the LORD God."** This is a combination of the covenant name for God along with the name most commonly associated with His unique role as the *"Creator."*

This hybrid name symbolizes His providential care for Adam and Eve. In Genesis 2:4-17, the **LORD God's**

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goodness stands out like a sparkling diamond against a backdrop of black velvet.

Today I want you to give consideration to God's original design for marriage. Hear the Word of the Lord...

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.

What does it mean to honor marriage? Gary Smalley said that the word *honor* means to highly value something — to appreciate, cherish and recognize it as a priceless treasure. It's about dedicating your heart and soul to building strong foundational qualities into your marriage relationship. Here's the truth I want you to believe and to defend...

GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD

Consider this. Up to this point in the creation narrative everything God has done has been good.

Here for the first time we find something that is not good.¹

Genesis 2:18... Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

The LORD God knew that Adam needed a companion created in the image of God and filled with the breath of life. So, God determined to make...

"A helper suitable for him"—The word "*helper*" is not a demeaning term; it is often used in Scripture to describe God Himself...

Psalms 46:1... God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.

John 16:7... "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."

¹ James Montgomery Boice, [*Genesis: An Expositional Commentary*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 130.

Adam would be completed only when God provided a wife for him. Let's look at the next two verses...

Genesis 2:19-20... Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

God assigned to Adam the responsibility of naming all the living creatures. Adam studied their nature and their relationships and then named them accordingly. The Lord used this exercise to plant a desire for a companion in Adam's heart. So, God prepared Adam for Eve, and now He would create Eve for Adam...

Genesis 2:21–22... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

Against the backdrop of a perfect world and in a magnificent garden paradise, the LORD God fashioned a woman. The word translated as "fashioned" means to build. It pictures God as a Master Sculptor carefully shaping Eve to be the perfect companion for Adam. Perhaps Matthew Henry, the Puritan Bible commentator, said it best...

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 upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be beloved.²

Can you imagine what it must have been like when God presented Eve to Adam as his wife and companion for life? Actually, we have a record of Adam's first words...

² Kurt Strassner, [*Opening up Genesis*](#), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 24.

Genesis 2:23... The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

Adam instantly recognized that he had someone to share his life with, and he was blown away. It's like he said, *"Wow, this is the one!"* He realized that Eve was like him, but she was also different from him. They were certainly different anatomically—*he was a male; she was a female. He was stronger; she was weaker.* Adam and Eve were the first married couple. I want to remind you...

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For the rest of our time, I want to share three essential ways you can honor God's vision for marriage. To begin with, you must view marriage it as:

1. A PRIORITY RELATIONSHIP

Genesis 2:24... For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother....

Obviously, Adam did not have a father or a mother to leave as he began this new relationship with Eve. Moses interjects transcendent spiritual truth that God revealed concerning the marriage relationship.

God designed marriage to function with the husband/wife relationship taking precedence over the parent/child relationship.

The husband and the wife cannot establish interdependence with each other if they have not declared their independence from their parents.

This is also an important issue after the couple starts their own family. It's so easy for a mom to build her life around her kids, and it is so easy for a husband to build his life around his career or his hobbies. You must not allow this to happen in your marriage. Your most important relationship is with the Lord your God. Then comes your relationship with your spouse, *not your kids and not your parents.*

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To truly honor the marriage relationship, you must view it as a priority relationship. Secondly, you must view it as. . .

2. AN EDURING RELATIONSHIP

Genesis 2:24... For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife...

The word "joined" means to cling to, to be glued together. The marriage relationship as established by God in the Garden of Eden is built on commitment, not feelings or emotions. Marriage is a covenant before God.

Matthew 19:3–6... Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" 4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 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'? 6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

God's perfect plan for marriage is one man being married to one woman for life! Don't forget this truth...

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As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must honor God's design for marriage by embracing His vision of marriage as a **priority relationship** and an **enduring relationship**. Thirdly, we honor marriage when we view it as:

3. AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

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.

"One flesh"—This refers to the emotional, spiritual, and physical union of a husband and a wife. Each of these expressions of oneness is absolutely vital. This kind of oneness develops in an atmosphere of love, trust, and encouragement.

Genesis 2:25... And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Adam and Eve were totally transparent with each other. At this point they had no sin in their lives, and they had nothing to hide or nothing to be ashamed of.

CONCLUSION

Your family is important to God. Keep resisting the pressure to compromise on this crucial issue. Get this truth firmly fixed in your mind...

GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR GOOD

Today, we've examined three ways we can honor God's vision for marriage. These include embracing marriage as:

- 1. A PRIORITY RELATIONSHIP**
- 2. AN ENDURING RELATIONSHIP**
- 3. AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP**

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Believer, will you embrace God's vision and model it for your kids and grandkids and teach it to them?

Don't overlook the fact that the most important relationship in your life is your relationship with the Lord. You can't have the marriage God wants you to have if you fail to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Will you receive Him this morning by faith?

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