

Millennium Prayer

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GRACELIFE  CHURCH

Memory Verse

Ephesians 5:33

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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FamilyLife's

 ONENESS
PRAYER CHALLENGE

Come together to strengthen your marriage.

Thematic Overview of Genesis 1-12 - Pt 7

Biblical Marriage

There is one **God**. He **created** all things in 6 literal days. This includes the **dinosaurs**. **Work** was part of creation. We looked at **gender, sexuality and the image of God**. God created male and female. Each are *unique by God's good design*, and we are made to *complement each other within marriage*. Our topic today is - **Biblical Marriage**.



Genesis 2:18-25 - Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper fit** for him.” 19Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all livestock

and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man **he made into a woman** and **brought her to the man.** 23 Then the man said, **“This at**

last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become one flesh. 25And the man and his **wife** were both naked and were not ashamed.

A. Who Created Marriage

Society, culture and humanity did not create marriage. This was the first "*institution,*" or an *official practice created and declared by God!*

Who married them? **God**. There was *no one else* to officiate the marriage. God *brought Eve to Adam,* and in one sense, Adam spoke vows to her, recorded in *verse 23.*

A. Who Created Marriage

It is *crucial* for Christians to have a ***Christian and Biblical worldview of marriage***. If you believe we are the product of evolution, then *humanity defines marriage*... When we *step away from Biblical marriage*, ***anything goes!*** The church must stand firm on what the Bible says about marriage, because **God created it and determines the parameters for it.**

B. What is Marriage

Malachi 2:13-14 - And this second thing you do.

You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14But you say, "Why does he not?"

Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by **covenant**.

B. What is Marriage

What is a **covenant**? A **binding promise** between 2 or more people or parties. In the Bible, there are different types of covenants, and this one is a **2-way agreement**. Each person agrees to his/her part within the relationship. Covenants were serious in the ancient world, and literally "**cut**" in or by blood. God declares that marriage is a **covenant**...

C. For Whom is Marriage

Genesis 2 is very clear. **Marriage** is to be between ***one man and one woman, ideally for life***. This is not always the case and *there are circumstances where divorce is appropriate* - adultery or an unbelieving spouse leaving a Christian. That is painful, never easy, but sadly does occur. In these cases, *remarriage is appropriate, in Christ.*

C. For Whom is Marriage

The man has responsibilities and the woman has responsibilities. While some of these overlap, there are **distinctions**. In some cases, things are different by necessity, but we are basing our study on what Scripture says... Sometimes a wife/mother *must work outside the home* when there are young kids around.

C. For Whom is Marriage

We are going to address the *functional aspects of marriage*, and the *foundational attitudes of marriage*.

D. The Roles in Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33 - **Wives, submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23**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. **24**Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. **25****Husbands, love** your wives, as Christ loved

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the church and gave himself up for her, 26that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28In the same way husbands should love their wives as their

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own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30because we are members of his body. 31“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32This mystery is profound, and I

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am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

D. The Roles in Marriage

This is a familiar and a controversial text. We begin with **wives**, as the text does. The translated word "*submit*" is used 3 times in these verses. While in the Greek it is not in *verse 22*, the context goes back to *verse 21*, which talks about *submitting to one another*. The word this is based on is **hupotasso**.

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It is based on 2 words - **hupo** - under and **tasso** - arrange, and means "to place under, be subject to, place under rank," and even "obey." It was a **military term** describing the *chain of command*. First, it is a choice... Second, it does **not** mean that you are less than your husband... Third, it does mean, he is the leader and you follow his lead...

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1 Peter 3:1-6 - Likewise, wives, be **subject** to your own husbands, so that **even if some do not obey the word**, they may be **won** without a word by the **conduct** of their wives, 2when they see your **respectful** and **pure conduct**. 3Do not let your adorning be external - the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear - 4but let

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your adorning be the **hidden person of the heart** with the imperishable **beauty** of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which in God's sight is very precious. 5For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him **lord**. And you are her children, if you do

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good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

D. The Roles in Marriage

There are more verses given to husbands who are to *love* their wives. And *not just to love them*, but love them as Christ loved the church and gave Himself. This is **sacrificial love**! Paul explains what this looks like and talks about our physical body as an example. He also quotes from *Genesis 2:24*. There is a lot to this. This, and other texts, mean that

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there is a **separation** and a **unification**. The man, and woman, are to ***separate from their parents and unite with their spouse***. This is a topic unto itself, but ***unhealthy marriages can be connected to unhealthy dependence on one's own parents***. The text points to the man leaving his parents...

D. The Roles in Marriage

Many use this text to say *the church is the bride of Christ*. That is **not** what the text is talking about, nor what it says. He is talking about marriage in context... In the Old Testament, **Israel is God's bride**, and though *unfaithful*, He is **covenanted** to her. Paul says he is talking about – ***purifying and cherishing***.

D. The Roles in Marriage

Men, if you are married, we are **commanded** and **commissioned** by God to **provide** and **protect** your wife. That is *clear*. We are called to **precede** your family. That is, we are to **lead**. We are called to **purify** our wives... We have to ask: *How does Christ purify us?*

D. The Roles in Marriage

Being the spiritual leader in our family means we **pray** with her, **go over Scripture** with her, **communicate** with her, **be open** with her. We may feel *inadequate* to do this!

There are numerous resources to help, but start by *reading the Bible* and *ask for help to talk about it.*

D. The Roles in Marriage

1 Peter 3:7 - Likewise, **husbands, live** with your wives in an **understanding** way, showing **honor** to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are **heirs** with you of the grace of life, so that your **prayers** may not be hindered.

D. The Roles in Marriage

Peter adds another aspect of *marriage for the husband*. **Living** with and **honoring** your wife – **prestige**. This is showing respect, honor, or *treating her like a princess*. You have to learn about her, understand why she does what she does and says what she says. This requires effort, listening, and being aware. There is a **warning**...

E. The Purposes of Marriage

1. Children

Malachi 2:15 - Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? **Godly offspring**. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

E. The Purposes of Marriage

1. Children

Bring *children up* in the discipline and admonition of the Lord - ***Ephesians 6:4***. One reason *God created marriage*, was for us to have kids...

Having children, raising them with the **love**, **discipline** and **truth** of God's word, *so they can do the same, is crucial*. That is **our job**, not the youth pastor!

E. The Purposes of Marriage

2. Companionship

Malachi 3:14 - But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your **companion** and your wife by covenant.

E. The Purposes of Marriage

2. Companionship

The man's wife was/is his **companion**, and *vice versa*. There is more than friendship, though that should be a *part of the relationship*. The Hebrew word means "*consort or companion*." In that culture, *marriages were arranged*, and they were

E. The Purposes of Marriage

2. Companionship

married at a **young age**. God's purpose was for the couple to stay married for **life**. Part of that is *companionship* and *intimacy*. When we think of intimacy, we think of sex.

However, intimacy is ***knowing someone and being known by them.***

E. The Purposes of Marriage

3. Physical Expression of Attraction

Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

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1 Corinthians 7:5 - Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.