



I. God's Design For Marriage

A Biblical & Theological View of Marriage

Introductory Perspectives on Marriage



1. Origin of problems in marriage

Many marry for the wrong reason:

- ⇒ promiscuity
- ⇒ compensate for faults (run from perceived faults)
- ⇒ to realize an image
- ⇒ marriage is a way to legitimate sex

Introductory Perspectives on Marriage

2. The family under attack

- playboy philosophy
 - gay and lesbian agendas
 - entertainment mediums: TV sitcoms, internet, movies, radio
 - materialism
 - substitutes for marriage: trial marriages, contract marriages, live-in lovers, semi-marriages, pre-nuptial agreements, L.A.T. (Living Apart Together) marriages, etc.
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3. The overall effect is two-fold

- 1) Many young people are unsure about marriage.



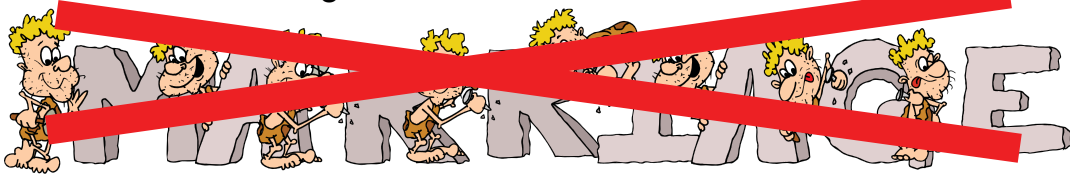
- 2) Many already married have lost hope.

4. The Church of Jesus Christ has lasting answers and must proclaim them!
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I. Contemporary presuppositions and God's design

A. Secular theories and marriage

- Marriage is a result of man's planning & design. (see student notes: United Nations view of "family")
- Evolutionary caveman arrangement
- If man developed marriage then man can destroy marriage!



I. Contemporary presuppositions and God's design

B. Scriptural theology and marriage

- Marriage was given by God. (Gen. 1:26-27)
- Critical point: If God created marriage then He has answers for marriage when it gets into trouble which means there is hope!

Real Hope for Marriage

II. Christian presuppositions and God's design (Genesis 1:27, 31)

- A. Celibacy is not the norm. It is not more holy to be celibate.
- C. Marriage is not to be disparaged. It is holy and honorable.
- E. Sex and procreation is a part of marriage. Gender distinctiveness is called very good.



II. Christian presuppositions and God's design (Genesis 1:27, 31)



- D. Marriage is not to compete with human options or substitutes.
 - F. Marriage is the picture of Christ's relationship to His bride the Church. It teaches an important spiritual reality about God's relationship to His people.
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III. Creation theology and the original design (Genesis 2:18-23)

A. Original purpose of marriage (2:18)

Hebrew, “to be alone,” it was not good לִבְדּוֹן
Companionship is the purpose of marriage.

B. Original partners in marriage (2:19-23)

עֶזְרָא

H כְּנֶגְדּוֹ
.completer, ideally suited for him

The animals would not do. God did not create
a father, mother, child, sister, brother, playmate
for Adam. He created a wife!

IV. Covenantal bond in marriage



A. A covenant (Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14)

Hebrew, “covenant,” בְּרִית
!to cut a covenant

Marriage was considered a
sacred unbreakable bond, a
lasting lifetime commitment.

IV. Covenantal bond in marriage

B. The essential unity of marriage (Genesis 2:24)

1. Leave

- a) parent/child ⇒ temporary
- b) husband/wife ⇒ permanent

2. Cleave

Weld together; basis is commitment!

3. One flesh

Physical, parenting, financial, etc.!