
Is Marriage Really a Big Deal to God?

The Bible Teaches Us That:

- **Marriage Is Foundational to God's Plan**
- **Marriage Is Valuable to Our Lives**
- **Marriage Is Spiritual in What It Represents**

1. God's Perfect Plans Included Marriage

- **Perfect creation began with a marriage**

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Gen 2:21-24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam 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." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- *Companionship* (not good to be alone)
- *Completion* (teamwork & parts to make a whole)
- *Continuation* (bearing children; Ps 127:3-5; Mal 2:15)

- **Jesus was born in the context of marriage**

Mt 1:18-25 ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

- God's plan is for children to have godly parents
- Marriage is God's context for children

2. God's Greatest Relationships Are Pictured By Marriage

- **God pictured Himself as a husband to Israel**

Jer 3:14 "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. (cf. Jer 31:32)

- **Jesus is pictured as the husband of the Church**

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another-- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

- **Marriage is a living picture of God's relationship with us**

Eph 5:22-33 ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (cf. Rev 19:7-9)

3. God's Strongest Commands Protected Marriage

- **Against committing adultery**

Exo 20:14 You shall not commit adultery. (cf. Rom 13:9, etc.)

- **Against marrying unbelievers**

Ezra 9:14a should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people *committing* these abominations? ...

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- **Against divorcing frivolously**

Mal 2:14-16 ¹⁴ "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." (cf. Mt 5, Mt 19, Mk 10:12; Lu 16:18; John 4, 1 Cor 7)

4. God's Detailed Teachings Involved Marriage

- **Marriage was the capstone of Creation (Gen 2)**

- **Marriage endured through the fall (Gen 3; 1 Tim 2)**

- **Marriage is a earthly covenant (Mt 22:24-30)**

- **Marriage is a key area of spiritual emphasis (Eph :22-33)**

- **Marriage is the primary focus of godly women (1Ti 5; Ti 3)**