
What Is Marriage?

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1. Marriage involves two: one male & one female.
2. Marriage involves the intent to be fruitful and multiply.
3. Marriage involves the intent to make impact on the world together (as one).

Genesis 2:18-25 ¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹ 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. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ 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." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

1. Marriage takes these two and makes them one flesh.
 - Connected physically
 - Connected relationally
 - Connected spiritually
2. Marriage involves the intent to join as a single identity.
3. Marriage involves the intent for life-long companionship.
 - "Til death do you part?"
 - Matt 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.
4. Marriage involves the intent of filling Biblical roles:
 - Each fills a different God-designed purpose.
 - The man is the leader, protector, & provider
 - The woman is a comparable (not identical) helper, helping her husband "in his garden" as they raise the children God gives them. (1 Tim 2:15; 5:14; Titus 2:3-5)

Malachi 2:11-16 ¹¹ Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned **The LORD's holy institution which He loves**: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹² May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob The man who does this, being awake and aware, Yet who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts! ¹³ And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands. ¹⁴ Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. ¹⁶ "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."

1. Marriage is to be "within the faith".
2. Marriage is a God-ordained, holy institution which God loves.
3. Marriage is a covenant before God to take one another as companion and mate.
4. Marriage involves the intent to raise up godly offspring.
5. Marriage involves the intent to stay together for life.

Ephesians 5:22-33 ²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord [does] the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife [see] that she respects [her] husband.

1. Marriage is symbolic of the relationship Jesus has with the Church.
2. Each role is to reflect an aspect of this relationship (submit; love).