

## Did God Really Say? The Purpose of Marriage GENESIS 2:18-25

### INTRODUCTION

Well...we return to our study under the banner “**Did God Really Say?**” For this morning, we focus our attention on: **The Purpose of Marriage.**

The purpose of marriage is God’s glory! Wouldn’t it be something if you and I began to see, preach, teach and live out the reality that marriage is not ultimately about our happiness but for His glory?

How about if our marriage is not so much about us but a divine instrument that He uses to display truths about Himself; truths about forgiveness, love, respect, prayer, sexuality, servanthood, character (integrity), the seriousness of sin, and perseverance. **How about if marriage was not ultimately about our happiness but about His ultimate purpose to display His love for His people?**

Please turn in your Bible to **Genesis 2:18-25.**

**Here’s today’s main point: a biblical worldview**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that marriage, as defined by God, is the \_\_\_\_\_ of one man and one woman in a life-long \_\_\_\_\_ to one another through which the covenant-keeping love between Christ and His bride, the church, is \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. Marriage is God's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:18-23)

### A. God's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:18)

Context is always crucial when you study the Bible. In this case we need to know that this passage takes place in the Garden of Eden before sin enters the created order. It describes a world none of us has ever experienced—a world without sin. It is a world of created perfection with no hint of moral contamination.

When you read **Genesis 1-2**, the words of **2:18** hit abruptly: “*It is not good for the man to be alone.*” Throughout chapter one, God surveys His work and pronounces it good (**1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31**). This is the first time God says that something in His creation is *not* good: “*It is not good for the man to be alone.*” Think about it: Here’s a sinless man, in perfect fellowship with God, in a perfect environment. What more could you want? Isn’t that enough? **Not according to God!** God’s evaluation was that the man needed a human companion to correspond to him.

**We must, however, be careful not to reduce marriage to merely companionship.** If the sole function of marriage is to fulfill our human need for companionship, this elevates individual needs above everything else. In the life of a sinner, this can breed egocentrism, narcissism, and self-centeredness—personal traits that should never be the foundation of any marriage.

**If marriage were only for companionship, marriage would be me-centered. Rather, marriage is God-centered. God brought Adam and Even together—and brings husband and wife together—to provide companionship and to enable them to fulfill the work of worshipping, serving, and obeying God.**

When God says he will create “*a helper,*” many people picture someone who sweeps the floor, makes the beds, prepares the meals, and in general does the housework while

the man of the house sits in his soft recliner with the remote control in his hand flipping from one channel to another. That's not what the word means.

**The Hebrew word 'ezer means "help" or "assistance" and occurs twenty-one times in the Old Testament.** Sixteen of these occurrences refer to God as Israel's help. In **Exodus 18:4**, Moses named his son Eliezer (literally, "my God is help") and said, "*The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.*" God wasn't simply a companion to Moses—God delivered Moses. In **Psalm 115:9**, the writer declares, "*O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.*" The Lord's help wasn't simply companionship—God protected Israel. **Psalm 121** begins, "*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*" As the psalm continues, we see that "**help**" means that God protects us, never sleeps, provides shade, and keeps us from evil (verses 1–8).

Far from possessing the rather passive nature of simply being a companion, "**help**" conveys the concept of a person who acts and assists in fulfilling a task. Eve is thus the remedy for Adam's aloneness by being a companion and by assisting him in completing a mission – Genesis 1:28, 2:15.

**B. Adam's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:19-20)**

**C. God's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:21-22)**

**D. Adam's \_\_\_\_\_ (2:23)**

## II. Marriage is for God's glory (2:24-25)

Don't miss the progression of thought! *'Therefore'* means *'since or because God has designed this union'...*

1. Marriage is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship

The best way to be a good parent to your children is to be a good husband to their mother or a good wife to their father. Marriage must be primary.

2. Marriage is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship

Romantic love is important, but the foundation of marriage is a commitment of the will.

3. Marriage is to be an \_\_\_\_\_ relationship

This means that when you get married, your best friend is not another person other than your spouse. Husbands – no other woman occupies your wife's place; and wives – no other man occupies your husband's place. You must make sure you're marrying your best friend! If you can't handle that, you aren't mature enough for the demands of marriage.

4. Marriage is to be an \_\_\_\_\_ relationship

## CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? **Marriage was God's first gift to the human race.** Is a man wrong to feel a desire for a woman? No. Is it wrong for a woman to desire the companionship of a man? No. Sometimes men and women make poor choices and live to regret it. But the desire of a man to spend his life with one woman and the desire of a woman to spend her life with one man—that is not wrong. Far from it. That desire is placed in the human heart by God.

If you're **single, and content** to remain single, then use your single state to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord and His work (1 Cor. 7:35). If you're **single, but desire to be married**, be growing in godliness and purity and pray and look for a person who is committed to do the same. Your lifelong relationship must be centered on God, so that it will reflect to the world a picture of Christ and the church. If you are **married to an unbeliever**, your responsibility is to serve as a witness of God's grace to your spouse; godly character and behavior is what you need to be about (1 Pet. 3:1-7).

If you're **married**, is your marriage growing in the way it reflects Christ and the church to this selfish, pleasure-seeking, lost world? If so, celebrate God's grace in your marriage. If not, it's time to take action! Marriages don't run on autopilot; they require attention and work.