

## Marriage According to Scripture

### 1. What are the Foundational requirements for a Biblical marriage?

(Gen. 1:26-29; 2:15-18, 20-24)

#### **a. A realization that we are image bearers of God.**

We represent God in this world. Gen. 1:26 reveals that God is relational within the essence of His being as a Triune God. In marriage God wants the husband and wife to communicate with Him and one another. This three-way communication is an earthly reflection of the eternal Triune God.

Three times it says that God created (vs. 1,21,27). He created matter, living souls, and intelligence. This corresponds to body, soul and spirit which makes up man (1 Thess. 5:23). For this reason man is totally unique from the animals, a truth that is denied in our evolutionary humanistic society.

#### **b. A commitment to obey the word of God.**

In Gen.1 we read 10x "Then God said." The last 3x it is in relation to the creation of man:  
vs. 26 - God expressing the intentions of His heart  
vs. 28 - God entrusting man with responsibilities to fulfill  
vs. 29 - God extending privileges to man to enjoy within the boundaries of obedience (2:16,17).

#### **c. A commitment to God-honouring labour (2:15)**

We are to be willing and ready to care and provide for someone else (1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 31).

#### **d. A commitment to marriage and the family (2:24; 1:28)**

1 Cor. 7:33,34 - Readiness to please our spouse.  
Malachi 2:15 - God seeks godly offspring.

### 2. What constitutes a marriage and what is its purpose?

#### **a. Companionship**, Man needs a "help-opposite" to him (2:18,20)

i. **The woman was made from man's side**, not from the head to be his superior nor from his feet to be treated as inferior.

#### ii. 2:24 - **Spirit --> Soul --> Body**

- Maturity, affection, total relationship

The order of Satan and the world is Body --> Soul --> Spirit (Gen. 3:6, 1 John 2:16). "Living together" without being married is putting God's order upside down. God does not approve of people enjoying the union of their bodies before the commitment of their spirit and soul to each other in a lifelong covenant marriage relationship before God and witnesses. (Malachi 2:14-16)

iii. **"One flesh" is more than bodily union.** It is forming a blood relationship.

Compare Gen 29:14; 37:27, Judge 9:2; 2 Sam. 19:12,13; 1 Chron. 11:1 where the expression "bone and flesh" means blood relative.

iv. **“Be joined”** - To cleave unto, to cling to.

This word is used of Ruth clinging to Naomi in Ruth 1:14. Notice what she says to Naomi about her loyalty to her in vs. 14-17.

v. Malachi 2:14-16 **The Lord is the ultimate witness** between a husband and wife.

Your Spouse is your companion. Your marriage is a covenant. God hates divorce!

vi. Mark 10:6-9 - A man joins himself to his wife in marriage and when this happens the text says “God has joined together”. **God sanctions the marriage vows people make and holds people responsible for them.**

vii. 1 Cor. 7:39 - **“A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives.”**

viii. Matt. 1:20,24,25 - Mary was Joseph’s wife already in the betrothal period when the vows were made but the marriage was not yet consummated. Marriage requires a public declaration of the couple’s intent to be permanently united for life before physically living together. **The vows they make before God and witnesses is what binds them together.** (Malachi 2:14).

It is God’s intention that the children which are born should be within the family structure of a married husband and wife. This differentiates man from the animal world.

b. **Procreation** - Gen 1:28; 2:24; 4:1; 9:1,7; Malachi 2:15

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c. **Sanctification** - 1 Cor. 7:1,2; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4

God’s purpose in marriage is not first of all to make us happy, but to make us holy.

d. **Illustration** - Eph. 5:22-33 - Marriage is to be a testimony to the relationship of Christ and the Church.

### 3. What does it take to have a successful, God-honouring marriage?

#### The 3 C’s of marriage:

a. **CHRIST** (Eph. 5; Jn. 15:1-8; Gal. 5:22) Your spouse is first of all your brother/sister in Christ if both are saved. If you’re focused on Him and experience His fellowship you will draw closer to one another as well.

b. **COMMITMENT** (Gen 2:24, Malachi 2:14-16; 1 Cor. 7:10,11,39)

When getting married it is important to have unconditional loyalty to your spouse and the marriage relationship above any other human relationship and to love and respect one another.

c. **COMMUNICATION** (1 Peter. 3:7; Eph. 4:15,25,29 Jam. 1:19,20)

Your spouse should be your best friend (companion) and a friend is someone you share everything with. (John 15:15; Ex. 33:11)

i. Take time to share your thoughts with one another

ii. Pray and read the Bible together

iii. Be quick to confess and forgive (Eph. 4:26)

