

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

#1 'The purpose of Marriage'

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BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Biblical definition of marriage is:

‘one man and one women in a covenant that is consummated’

(This excludes gay marriage, polygamy and cohabitation)



**Marriage is one of the
greatest blessings but also
one of the greatest
challenges in live**



MARRIAGE: A CHALLENGING BLESSING

Prov. 5:18-19, 18:22, 19:14, 31:10

Ecccl. 4:9-12, 9:9

Song of Solomon

Eph. 5:33

Hebr. 13:4

Coll. 3:18-19 1 Cor. 7:28



THE BIBLICAL MARRIAGE IS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK

- Divorce rates $\pm 40\%$ (excl. non marital relationships)
- Same sex marriages
- Friends with benefits marriages

So why keep going? What's the point?



MARRIAGE IS SOMETIMES HARD

- Hard
- Disappointing
- Sometimes childless
- Sickness
- Etc.

So why keep going? What's the point?



CHURCH HISTORY ON THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

1. Children rather than barrenness
2. Faithfulness rather than selfishness
3. Order rather than chaos



GOD'S BIG POINT ON MAKING US MALE AND FEMALE

6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." – Mark 10:6-8



GOD'S BIG POINT ON MAKING US MALE AND FEMALE

31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” – Eph. 5:31

For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” – 1 Cor. 6:16

Jesus and Paul are both going back to Gen. 1 and 2. And so shall we!



GENESIS 1:26-31

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them,



GENESIS 1:26-31

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.



GENESIS 1:26-31

30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.



GENESIS 1:26-31

1. We are made in His image and likeness
2. Be fruitful and multiply to take care of the world
3. We are created male and female: we are to use our maleness and femaleness to care for God's world
4. We are to rejoice in our Creator (this is implied in Gen but for example spelt out in Psalm 8)



GENESIS 1:26-31

The point is that we should enjoy the '(sexual) intimacy, friendship, partnership, fun and faithfulness of marriage *in service of God*'



GENESIS 2:15-25

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."



GENESIS 2:15-25

19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam⁷ there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

GENESIS 2:15-25

22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is 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 his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



VERSE 18

“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

- Was Adam lonely?
- Unless married: lonely?
- Unless married not loved?
- = marriage for fulfillment of me, my needs and in service of us?
- We will be most satisfied (in our marriages) when we (our marriages) are most satisfied (in service of) in Him'



VERSE 18

Two reasons why interpretation of Eve being made to fill Adams needs and/or loneliness is wrong:

- Gen. 2:18 must be read in context of Adam being put in the Garden to work and keep it
- The rest of the Bible does not support the view that marriage is the only remedy for loneliness and fellowship



VERSE 18

Two disastrous results of this view:

- It's not real love: inward looking marriages are selfish
- Because it destroys marriages: we've never had higher expectations of our spouses, we've also never had higher divorce rates than now
 - Unrealistic expectations vs. expect the expected:
 - Broken, fallen world
 - You are married to a sinner
 - We have a faithful and powerful God!

VERSE 18

Having anything or anyone else then God fill your ultimate needs or fulfillment: the Bible calls this idolatry

It also isolates couples from family and society

Success is not defined in the bedroom but in how the new family unit functions in the wider society.

The key to a good marriage is not to pursue a good marriage but to pursue the honoring of God



MARRIAGE IS NOT ABOUT YOU

The Biblical marriage is about:

1. Reflecting God's image
2. To have (sexual) intimacy, friendship, partnership, fun and faithfulness *in service of God*
3. To display the Gospel



HOW TO INCREASE THE SUCCESS OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGES:

Divorce rates drop with 50% when:

- You go to church *together* regularly
- Your Biblical beliefs are *aligned*
- You live your *faith at home*: prayer, Bible reading, fellowship with other Christians etc.





INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH EINDHOVEN

Your Christian family away from home