

Marriage

A State of the “Union” Address

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July 17-18, 2021

Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

1. What is _____ ?

“Marriage has been understood as the legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife in all cultures and societies throughout all of human history. No society has in all of recorded history ever permitted same-sex marriage before the 21st century.”

—Wayne Grudem

Marriage is:

- A lifelong relationship
- Between a man and woman
- Established by a covenant before God
 - Physical Union
 - Genesis 2:24 (ESV)*
 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast (cling to, stuck like glue) to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*
 - Spiritual Union
 - Malachi 2:13–15 (ESV)*
 - 13 And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. 14 But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

- Jesus on Marriage

Matthew 19:4–6 (ESV)

4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

1. Sex is God’s idea.
2. God commands Adam and Eve to have sex (be fruitful and multiply).
3. Sex in the creation account always comes after covenant marriage.

Marriage, as defined by God, is for all people, at all times, in all societies! (Ex: Lev 18)

2. Why Do Marriages _____ ?

- Sin & Selfishness

Genesis 3:7–8 (ESV)

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Matthew 19:7–9 (ESV)

7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” 8 He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

3. A Word About _____

- Jesus was single
- Paul was single

Paul – 1 Corinthians 7:6–8 (NLT)

6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another. 8 So I say to those who aren’t married and to widows—it’s better to stay unmarried, just as I am.

“The key to contentment as a single person is not trying to make singleness into something that will satisfy us; it is to find contentment in Christ as a single person.

The key to contentment as a married person is not trying to build a marriage that can make us content; it is to find contentment in Christ as a married person.”

—Sam Allberry, *7 Myths of Singleness*

4. The _____-Filled Marriage

Ephesians 5:17–30 (NLT)

17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.

1. You be transformed by God's word & prayer daily.
2. You be quick to forgive.
3. You initiate spending tons of time together.

Resources:

- Marriage Preparation Classes
- Biblical Life Coaching
- Surviving An Affair (Willard Harley)
- The Meaning of Marriage (Tim Keller)
- For Couples Only (Shaunti Feldhahn)
- You and Me Forever (Francis Chan)

ANSWERS:

1. MARRIAGE
2. FAIL
3. SINGLENESS
4. SPIRIT