

# Marriage

The sacred covenant between husband and wife instituted by God

Marriage stands as God's first human institution, established in Eden before the fall. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This foundational relationship pictures an even greater reality—Christ's love for His church (Ephesians 5:31-32). Marriage is thus both practically significant and profoundly symbolic.

Scripture defines marriage as a **covenant** between one man and one woman for life. Jesus affirmed this creation pattern: "From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6). This exclusive, permanent union reflects God's faithful love and provides the context for sexual intimacy, procreation, and companionship. "Marriage is honourable in all" (Hebrews 13:4).

God assigns complementary roles within marriage. Husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, as Christ loved the church—leading with gentleness, providing protection, and caring for her needs (Ephesians 5:25-28). Wives are called to respect and submit to their husbands, supporting their leadership and helping them fulfill their calling (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33). These roles do not imply inequality but reflect God's beautiful design for unity in diversity.

Christian marriage requires continual cultivation: communication, forgiveness, prayer, service, and renewed commitment. Divorce, while permitted in certain circumstances, was never God's intent—"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6). A godly marriage glorifies God, blesses the couple, provides stability for children, and witnesses to the world of gospel realities.

## God's Design

Marriage as God intended

**Genesis 2:24** — Leave and cleave, one flesh

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

**Matthew 19:4-6** — What God hath joined together

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

**Hebrews 13:4** — Marriage is honourable

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

**Proverbs 18:22** — Findeth a wife findeth a good thing

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

## Husbands and Wives

### Roles in marriage

**Ephesians 5:25** — Husbands, love your wives

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

**Ephesians 5:22** — Wives, submit unto your husbands

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

**Colossians 3:19** — Love your wives, be not bitter

Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

**1 Peter 3:7** — Dwell with them according to knowledge

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

## Christ and the Church

### Marriage as gospel picture

**Ephesians 5:31-32** — A great mystery: Christ and church

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

**Revelation 19:7** — Marriage of the Lamb

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

**2 Corinthians 11:2** — Espoused to one husband

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**Isaiah 54:5** — Thy Maker is thine husband

For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

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