

One Word: “Marriage”

Three “Musts” for Marriage

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Text: Genesis 2:18-24
- B. The preacher was visiting the fourth-grade Sunday School class to talk about marriage as part of the lesson.
 - 1. **[S1] “What does God say about marriage?”** he asked.
 - 2. One boy replied, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
- C. Well, let’s ask that same question and answer it with God’s earliest and definitive statement about His plans for the marriage relationship.
- D. In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus says that it is important for us to go back to God’s original intent for marriage to gain a full understanding of what marriage is all about:
 - 1. **[S2]** ⁴“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning “made them male and female,” ⁵and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? ⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’” – Matthew 19:4-6
 - 2. As Charles Swindoll states, “We need to blow the dust off God’s original blueprint for marriage and the home. Our great need is to hear what He has to say about His design. After all, marriage is His invention. It’s obvious that He understands it best, since He holds the patent on it. As the Master Architect, the Lord is the most qualified authority, so we seek His counsel first and foremost” (19).
- E. Let’s go back to the beginning to discover – or rediscover – marriage as God intended it.
- I. **[S3] A “GOOD” REASON FOR A RELATIONSHIP** (2:18)
 - A. God created man and woman on the sixth day of creation.

- B. In the preceding days of creation, God passed His approval on His creation.
1. “And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25).
 2. **[S4]** “³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” – Genesis 1:31
- C. But then God saw something in His garden that was NOT good:
1. **[S5]** “¹⁸And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” – Genesis 2:18
 2. But God answers Adam’s aloneness!
- D. “I will make him a helper comparable to him.” – Genesis 2:18
1. “Helper” –
 - a. Webster’s definition: “One that helps; esp. a relatively unskilled worker who assists a skilled worker, usu. By manual labor” (as qtd. In Swindoll 22).
 - b. The Hebrew word “conveys the idea of someone who ‘assists another to reach complete fulfillment .’ It is used elsewhere in the Old Testament when referring to someone coming to rescue another “ (Swindoll 22).
 2. “Comparable to him” –
 - a. Literally, “corresponding to” him (Swindoll 22).
 - b. “The Hebrew phrase (*ezer kinegdo*) conveys the idea of a suitable companion... Of kindred nature, corresponding to man, and worthy of him, woman is the man’s suitable companion and soul mate. Marriage provides the relationship in which the companionship is realized” (Woods 118).

II. **[S6] THE SEARCH(?) FOR A SUITABLE COMPANION** (2:19-20)

- A. **[S7]** “¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each

living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field.” – Genesis 2:19-20a

- B. **[S8]** “But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.” – Genesis 2:20b
- C. “Adam’s naming of the animals signified his exercise of dominion over the lower creatures; **it also forced his full realization that in all creation there was no suitable companion for him**” (Woods 118).

III. **[S9] GOD GIVES AWAY THE BRIDE** (Genesis 2:21-23)

- A. **[S10]** “²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.” – Genesis 2:21-22
- B. “Created as companion, the woman was also created as man’s counterpart. Interestingly, this truth is illustrated by the fact that Eve was formed by God from Adam’s rib” (Woods 118).
- C. **[S11]** “Eve was made by God not out of His head to rule over Him, nor out of His feet to be trampled upon by Him, but out of His side to be equal with Him, under His arm to be protected, and near His heart to be loved.” – Matthew Henry
- D. **[S12]** ²³ And Adam said:
 “This *is* now bone of my bones
 And flesh of my flesh;
 She shall be called Woman,
 Because she was taken out of Man.”
 - 1. “Adam delighted in Eve when God ... led her to him. Adam’s joy is reflected in his welcoming words and in his naming of woman. Recognizing Eve as his counterpart, Adam said, ‘This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh’ [2:23a]. Literally, ‘this, the time,’ the opening phrase recalls man’s disappointed search for a suitable mate [2:20], and as Cassuto remarks, ‘**The sense is: This creature, this time (that is, at last), is in truth a helper corresponding to me**’” (Woods 118-119).

2. “Thus the man exclaims his enthusiasm and heart’s joy” (Woods 118-119).
3. “This is it!” (Living Bible paraphrase). “This is the one!”

IV. **[S13] THREE “MUSTS” FOR MARRIAGE** (2:24)

- A. **[S13A]** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24
- B. Note: this passage wasn’t written specifically for Adam and Eve.
 1. “Obviously, these verses have a much broader scope than Adam and Eve, for the original couple had neither father nor mother” (Swindoll 24-25).
 2. **“Many years later God gave Moses (the one who wrote Genesis) these thoughts to record as guidelines for all marriages throughout time. They stand as the earliest definitive statement ever made regarding marriage”** (Swindoll 24-25).
- C. **[S14] Principle #1 – “Leaving”** (Priority of relationship)
 1. **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother** and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24
 2. Marriage begins by leaving all other relationships. This addresses the PRIORITY of the marriage relationship.
 3. “To ‘leave father and mother’ means to break the parent-child bond, to sever the tight, emotionally dependent strings that once provided security, protection, financial assistance, and physical needs. All or any of those ties brought over into a marriage will hinder the bond of marriage from sealing” (Swindoll 35).
 4. How does this principle affect other relationships? Other activities?
 5. Husband, your wife needs to know that she comes first!
Wife, your husband needs to know that he comes first!
 6. Ed Wheat, in his book *Love Life*, makes the following important statement concerning the Leaving principle:

“This means that you and your mate need to refocus your lives on each other, rather than looking to another individual or group of people to meet your emotional needs. This also means giving other things a lesser priority – your business, your career, your house, your hobbies, your talents, your interests... all must be put into proper perspective. **Whatever is important to you in this life should be less important than your marriage**” (in Posey 2).

D. **[S15] Principle #2 – “Cleaving”** (Permanence of relationship)

1. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother **and be joined to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24
2. “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 KJV
3. **Marriage means a lifetime of cleaving.** “Cleave” — “to glue, to cling” (Swindoll 37). Cp. “superglue.” It means “to unite or cement together so that two cannot be separated without damage to both.”
4. The **lifelong nature of marriage** and the concept of **permanence** is seen in Jesus’ words in Matthew 19:3-6 –
 - a. **[S16]** ³ The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”
 - b. **[S17]** ⁴ And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”
 - c. **[S18]** ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
5. “These verses underline the time-honored phrase in the marriage ceremony, **‘till death do us part.’** The two are

cemented and welded together so that they cannot be separated without damage to both. Therefore, **marriage is a lifelong commitment!** (Posey 2). God intended for marriage to be one man and one woman for life.

6. **[S19] Commitment in Marriage** -- “The goal here isn’t just to stay married; it is to be committed to making the marriage all that it can be” (S&B 20).
 - a. **[S19A] It is a commitment for life.**
 - b. **[S19B] It is a commitment to love your spouse for a lifetime.**
 - 1) God commands that a husband love his wife as Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:25) and that he love her as his own body (Ephesians 5:28).
 - 2) God also commands wives to love their husbands and their children (Titus 2:4).
 - 3) “The commitment to be there and not abandon each other, no matter what, is the foundation. But the commitment goes further. It says, **‘We will do whatever it takes to love each other as we should’**” (S&B 20).

E. **[S20] Principle #3 – “Weaving”** (Process of relationship)

1. “Becoming one flesh” includes the sexual relationship in marriage. Cf. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5.
 - a. “God blesses the marriage bed, but judges all others” (Don Campbell).
 - b. “Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” – Hebrews 13:4
2. In the marriage relationship, man and wife become one in more ways than one!
 - a. **This is a process, not an instant fact!** “Two people with different backgrounds, temperaments, habits, scars, feelings, parents, educational

pursuits, gifts, and interests don't immediately leave a wedding ceremony in perfect unity" (Swindoll 39).

- b. "The whole idea of mutual acceptance, giving, listening, forgiving, belonging, and direction was implied. It is two individuals willingly blending into each other's lives, desiring to share with and thereby complete the other" (Swindoll 39).
3. Peter Marshall described marital harmony this way:
 - a. **[S21]** Marriage is not a federation of two sovereign states.
 It is a union –
 Domestic
 Social
 Spiritual
 Physical.
 - b. **[S22]** It is a fusion of two hearts—
 The union of two lives—
 The coming together of two tributaries,
 Which, after being joined in marriage, will flow
 In the same channel
 In the same direction...
 Carrying the same burdens of responsibility and obligation.
4. Marriage is like "the coming together of two tributaries."
 - a. When two powerful rivers come together, what do you have?
 - b. Whitewater! Turbulence!
 - c. But then, the two rivers become one stronger river flowing together in the same direction.
 - d. This is **WEAVING**, the process of marriage!

CONCLUSION:

- A. When the Apostle Paul wanted to illustrate the closeness of Christ and the church (the bride of Christ), he used the marriage relationship:
- B. **[S23]** “³⁰For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:30-32).
- C. In following Christ, there is a...
 - 1. **Leaving** – the life of sin and placing Him above every other relationship and activity
 - 2. **Cleaving** – a lifelong commitment
 - 3. **Weaving** – a growth process that will last the rest of our lives (2 Peter 3:18).
- D. Won't YOU follow Jesus?
- E. **[S24]** (blank slide)

SOURCES:

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