

God's Purposes for Marriage

Genesis 2:24

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

(cf. Matt. 19:5; Mark 10:7–8; Eph. 5:31)

I. Marriage Is a Permanent Covenant

Scripture Support

- **Romans 7:2–3**
- **Proverbs 2:16–17**
- **Malachi 2:14–15**

Principles

A. A marriage covenant is a **solemn agreement** between husband and wife in the presence of God.

B. A marriage covenant is a **legal agreement** between husband and wife.

C. Marriage is **modeled upon the relationship between Christ and His church** (Eph. 5:22–33).

II. Marriage Is for Personal Companionship

Scripture Support

- **Genesis 2:18**
“It is not good that the man should be alone...”

Principles

A. Marriage is intended to provide for **personal completion**.

- *Exception:* those with the **gift of single service** (1 Cor. 7:32–35)

B. Marriage involves **in-depth communication** aimed at achieving oneness of purpose, mind, spirit, and body.

C. Marriage involves a **complementary, unifying relationship** that values the differing perspectives of husband and wife.

III. Marriage Is for Progressive Christlikeness

(Ephesians 5:22–33)

Principles

- A. Marital struggles and conflicts reveal our **sinfulness and shortcomings**.
- B. Marital strife requires us to deal with sin in a **biblical manner** toward God, spouse, children, and parents.
- C. A godly marriage depends on:
 - the **husband’s loving, Christlike leadership**, and
 - the **wife’s spiritual submission**.

“As the church is subject unto Christ... as Christ also loved the church...”

IV. Marriage Is for Procreative Childbearing

Scripture Support

- **Genesis 9:7**
“Be fruitful, and multiply...”

Principles

- A. A Christian marriage **desires and welcomes children**.
 - B. A major purpose of marriage is to **develop godly children** (Eph. 6:1–4).
 - C. A spiritually strong, harmonious marriage **greatly assists** in raising godly children.
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Dating and Marriage: A Life-Long Decision

Date and marry with the rest of your life in mind.

During dating, the couple seeks to determine whether there is truly the **potential for lifelong oneness**.

Questions to Ask in Pursuing God's Will for Marriage

Spiritual Condition

- Is this person genuinely converted with evidence of a changed life?
- Does this person show the **fruit of the Spirit** and spiritual growth?
- Does this person speak openly about the Lord and spiritual things?

Commitment & Compatibility

- Can I commit myself to a **lifetime of love and service** to this person?
- Can I see this person as my **best friend for life**?

Communication & Conflict Resolution

- Does this person listen carefully and communicate from the heart?
- Are we able to **resolve conflicts biblically**?

Family Vision & Influence

- Can I see this person as the **father/mother** of my children?
- Would my parents approve if they knew him/her in-depth?
- What is this person's attitude toward **his/her parents** and other authorities?

Practical Stewardship

- Could I trust this person with **family finances**?
- Does he demonstrate **loving leadership**?
- Does she demonstrate **biblical submission**?
- Do we share **compatible vocational interests**?

Biblical Convictions

- Is this person committed to the **permanence of marriage**?
- Is this person committed to the **biblical model of marriage**?

Resources for Couples

- *Christian Living in the Home* — Jay Adams
- *Each for the Other* — Bryan Chapell
- *Strengthening Your Marriage* — Wayne Mack