

Signs – Elders – Masks are at your personal discretion – Bibles (Mark 10 – Gen. 2) – Brian The Truth is...Marriage – Divorce – Children – Wealth | Controversy then...Controversy now

- Next: Uncomfortable cono's – Not pass judgment | explore biblical Truth = Uncomfortable Know bad marriage...I was a bad husband – Church – Separated – Alcoholic – Girlfriend – 'I' Problem
  - If you want talk with us (Autumn) – Not about me...God's Word and God's Plan for us - Pray Big Idea – Marriage is God's Idea - Question – Why Does Marriage Matter? (SINGLE – Buckle Buttercup) And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. – Teach Truth...Opposition!

<sup>2</sup> And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" <sup>3</sup> He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" <sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." <sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife,<sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Question on table – 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife' – Jesus = 'What did Moses command'

- 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away' (4) | Write = Deut. 24:1-4 Jeremy...teach Spanish Tuesday – I Don't speak...Zach – Then Thursday – Solving wrong problem!
- Not that Book of Moses...the Genesis Book of Moses – (6) Write = Genesis 1&2 – Jesus

Rest time...answer question 'Why Does Marriage Matter?' | Understand Rebuttal = GENESIS 2:18-25

- Beginning of time - man and woman should come together and permanently join their lives
- Final act of creation - God institutes what the Bible later refers to as marriage (God Officiated)

He intends for marriage – your marriage and my marriage – to answer, 'Why Marriage Matters'

1. **To satisfy your necessity for companionship (v18a) – It is not good that man should be alone**  
Pretty obvious that Adam was alone – there was nobody else around

- Up to that point, God looked on everything he had created, and saw that it was good
  - Creating: Light - Heavens – Earth - Sun – Moon – Plants - Animals...God saw that it was good
- But when he created Adam, before Eve, he immediately said, "It is not good"

God created us with a built-in necessity for companionship

Autumn hates leaving me...Because I get all wacky without her! (Throw everything away...start over)

- We need each other because God designed us that way
- Sometimes our desire for companionship's satisfied through healthy friendships in the body of Christ
- Especially crucial for those who are single, widowed, or divorced...so important

God designed marriage as the ultimate way of satisfying our desire for companionship...opposite sex

Assignment #1 – Tell your spouse why you're thankful for their companionship

Marriage matters: To satisfy your desire for companionship

2. **To meet your need for partnership (v18b-23) – I will make a helper fit for him**

This is about to be the easiest point I've ever made in the pulpit - Husbands – You need help (Point 3)

God created us with a built-in need for each other

- God uniquely designed you with built-in deficiencies (Responsive - Women – Amen; Preach it)  
The Hebrew word for *helper* means "to aid."
- Wives – God uniquely designed you to partner with your husband, and complete him
- Husbands - He designed you to be helped in your role as a father, leader, and worker

What Does Partnership Look Like?

- Sharing in the triumphs and victories of life
- Enduring the ups and downs of life (family, work, and ministry)
- Encouraging each other's God-given giftedness
- Challenging each other's faults and failures in a loving way
- Dedication to your spouse more than other relationships (Superbowl)

God joins a husband and wife to accomplish together, what they can't do separately

*I will make a helper fit for him*

Hebrew word 'fit for' means "comparable to or corresponding to"

Someone suitable for Adam; Someone like him:

- Animals didn't fit that bill – Lower than he was
- God didn't fit that bill – Higher than he was

There was no one mutually suitable – *there was not found a helper fit for him (20)*

God forms Eve out of Adam's rib (22), his response that indicates the longing he had for relationship  
*This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh (23)*

- The search is over (Survivor) – finally, here's someone who is *like* me; suitable for *me*
- Someone who is my equal in the sense of being spiritually alive and created in the image of God  
God created us with a built-in longing for likeminded relationship
- A longing to be likeminded physically, emotionally, spiritually  
Assignment #2 – How can we better partner together in our relationship

Marriage Matters: Satisfy your desire for companionship – Meet your need for partnership

3. **To fulfill your desire for intimacy (v24-25)**

*A man shall leave his father and mother (Next) and hold fast to his wife they shall become one flesh*

- Becoming one flesh means being knit together heart and soul
- Physical union is both the *pinnacle* of that knitted-ness, and the *cement* of that bond - **Pyramid**  
One-flesh intimacy requires you direct all your energy and passion at your spouse
- It requires that you make each other the sole focus of your desires  
When you do, you will begin to experience the oneness/intimacy that God desires  
God designed marriage to fulfill our desire for intimacy

Marriage = It's the only context where there's no shame attached to your intimacy

- Only context where complete acceptance of the *whole* person, not just a physical gratification  
Assignment #3 – How can we strengthen our 'One Flesh' – Spiritually, Emotionally, Physically

Why Marriage Matters: Satisfy desire companionship – Meet need partnership – Fulfill yearning intimacy

4. **To show the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph 5:31-32)**

Wasn't on Moses' radar when he recorded the creation account that God gave to him (YEARS)

- But it's equally as big as the other purposes, and very clear in Eph 5:31-32  
Eph 5:31-32 – Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

**Profound**...Marriage is an analogy – illustrates, picture of – Christ's relationship with us, his people

- **Know?** Your marriage is intended to be a mirror image of Christ's relationship with the church?  
Husbands, you need to love your wife

- To the extent you do, you show or display the love of Christ for his church

Wives, you need to respect your husband

- To the extent you do, you show/display the love and respect of the church, for Christ  
In either case, to the extent we fail, we shame Jesus, and the people he gave his life for

You either bring glory to God in your marriage, or you don't | **Which means – Your marriage is not just about you...**

It's about God's glory

Assignment #4 – How can we better glorify God in and through our marriage

- There's more to it than two people trying to meet one another's needs . . .

**God's reputation and image is at stake and He intends for marriage to make it shine**

I know bad marriage because I was a bad husband...also know redemptive power of God in marriage

**Summary** – Marriage is God's Idea - Companionship, Partnership, Intimacy, and Glorifying God

- Tell your spouse why you're thankful for their companionship
- Ask your spouse, 'How can we better partner together in our relationship'
- How can we strengthen our 'One Flesh' – Spiritually, Emotionally, Physically
- How can we better glorify God in and through our marriage

If you want the best out of marriage (which God desires)

Then you have to put your best into it (which God requires)