

Sunday School

Marriage Series #1: Purpose of Marriage—Marital Holiness for Global Flourishing

Opening Question: What is the picture of marriage given by society (movies, tv, books, social media, regular media, friends, parents, etc...)? What do you think is taught and caught about marriage in our time?

Series Outline:

Jan 7—The Purpose of Marriage: Marital holiness for global flourishing

Jan 14—The Kingdom Context for Marriage: Maturity as a community project

Jan 21—The Proverbs 31 Man: Disciplined Wisdom

Jan 28—The Proverbs 31 Woman: Wise Hospitality

Feb 4—Husbands: Cultivating Courage

Feb 11—Wives: Cultivating Contentment

[BIG IDEA] *Marital holiness is for global flourishing.*

I. Human Essence: Male and Female in the Image of God (Gen. 1:27)

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

II. Human Purpose: Dominion (Gen. 1:26, 28); Work & Keep (Gen. 2:15)

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

III. Marriage: Complementarity for purpose and companionship (Gen. 2:18-25)

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Reflection Questions

- How are you embracing holiness for global flourishing? How are you working and keeping your corner of creation?
- (If married) How are you encouraging your spouse in doing so?
- (If married) How is your marriage creating a space for your own faithfulness and for the flourishing of others?

Extension Activity: *Start a Marriage Meeting.*

Schedule a time to have a 30-minute “Marriage Meeting” with your spouse.

(<https://www.artofmanliness.com/people/family/how-and-why-to-hold-a-weekly-marriage-meeting/>).

Four components:

- Appreciations
- Business
- Plan for Good Times
- Problems and Challenges

This week, spend extra time preparing for the “Appreciations” portion.

- How are we doing “working and keeping” what God has given us dominion over?
- How are we helping one another become who God has created and called us to be?