

## **The Unchanging Truth About Marriage in a Changing World**

Our smartphones have replaced an astonishing array of items that once filled our homes and pockets. Landlines, alarm clocks, cameras, calculators, phone books, even conversations—all rendered obsolete by a device we carry everywhere. Technology marches forward, constantly replacing what came before.

But there's one thing that will never be replaced by innovation: marriage.

### **A Divine Design**

In the 1960s and 70s, experts confidently predicted marriage would become as outdated as black-and-white television. The cultural revolutions of that era promised a new world where traditional matrimony would fade into irrelevance. Those predictions weren't just wrong—they were impossible.

Why? Because marriage isn't a human invention. A man and woman united through binding covenant is God's idea, and it carries His everlasting support. God is for marriage, and He puts the full weight of His divine authority behind marriages working.

Yet if that's true, why is marriage so difficult?

### **When War Is Declared**

Louis Zamperini survived poverty, street gangs, a plane crash in the Pacific, 47 days adrift at sea surrounded by sharks, and brutal torture in a POW camp. When a reporter asked if anything good came from all that suffering, he quipped: "I suppose it prepared me for 55 years of marriage."

The humor masks a profound truth: once the wedding is done, war is declared.

Consider this: the first marriage in human history appears in Genesis chapter two, where God Himself pairs the first couple and performs their wedding ceremony. In the very next chapter, Satan slithers into the picture and attacks the foundation of trust and spiritual intimacy between them. That's how the devil is introduced in Scripture—as attacking the first marriage.

Your spouse is not your enemy. You are man and wife, not man versus wife. But there is a spiritual conflict happening around every marriage covenant.

### **What Jesus Actually Said**

When religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with questions about divorce, asking whether a man could divorce his wife for just any reason, He did something remarkable. He didn't pick a side in their theological debate—He picked Scripture.

"Haven't you read the scriptures?" Jesus asked. He pointed them back to God's original design: "From the beginning, God made them male and female. A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they're no longer two, but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

Where do you get your opinions on important and emotional issues like marriage and divorce? From experience? From what someone told you? From podcasters, social media influencers, or talk show hosts?

We live in an era with more sources of information than any generation before us, yet many of these voices contradict God's Word. The world can't even figure out what a man is and what a woman is—why would we allow it to inform us on anything spiritually significant?

### **The Mystery of Covenant**

A biblical covenant is a legal agreement that locks a couple—a man and a woman—in a binding relationship. It's not about the ceremony, the location, or who officiates. It's about the promises made.

God takes personal interest in empowering these promises for three crucial reasons:

**Reflection:** Marriage is the most effective way to demonstrate God's quality of love—unconditional, limitless, relentless, without end. When marriage is healthy and functional, it becomes the best representation of the kind of love God gives.

**Protection:** Marriage protects two sinful, imperfect people from hurting one another with their fickleness. Covenant vows create a safe space where people can be real, be themselves, without fear of rejection.

**Multiplication:** Malachi 2:15 records the Lord saying, "Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? And what does he want? Godly children from your union." Research consistently shows children benefit from the stability of a committed two-parent marriage.

### **God's Active Role**

The Scripture uses powerful imagery to describe God's involvement in marriage. The word "joined" appears twice with different meanings: first, to be glued or welded together—a strong bond. Second, to be yoked or teamed together.

Think of a farmer yoking oxen. He doesn't throw the harness on the ground and walk away. He picks it up, holds it, leads each ox into position, straps it himself, fastens it himself. He teams them together.

God doesn't throw marriage on the ground and say, "Good luck with that." He actively works to bring covenant couples together. He involves Himself in that holy union. The Hebrew word for "one" means deeply fused—a level of bonding beyond human touch. The word for marriage itself derives from the word "holy."

In a marriage covenant, God is the active agent in uniting the couple. He involves Himself and favors marriage covenant over any other form of coupling. The Apostle Paul called this "a great mystery"—we don't fully understand how God gets involved in covenant pledges and empowers those vows, but He does.

### **Pursuing God's Best**

Wherever you find yourself on the marriage spectrum—single, divorced, married, struggling, or thriving—the key is committing to pursue God's best. Are you willing to pursue what God says is right, even when it doesn't make sense or align with other interests?

If Jesus can be raised from the dead by the power of God, then God can raise a flatlined marriage. We just need to give Him enough space to enter the picture. And this isn't about merely coexisting—God can transform relationships with something new, hopeful, with new direction and fulfillment.

The path forward requires three things:

**Humility:** Set aside your opinions and agree with what God says is right and best. Let God be true and every other voice a lie.

**Fresh filling of the Spirit:** Welcome God's empowerment. Vows expose our weakness—we commit to things we can't do in our own strength. But where we are weak, He is strong.

**Increased faith:** Renew your confidence in who God is and what He can do. What seems impossible for people is possible with God.

Marriage is not obsolete. It's not outdated. It's divinely designed, supernaturally sustained, and worth fighting for. In a world that constantly changes, this truth remains: God is for your marriage, and He will put the full weight of His divine authority behind it working.

## Scripture References from the Sermon

### ## Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Genesis 2** - The first marriage in human history
2. **Genesis 3** - Satan's attack on the first marriage
3. **Matthew 19:3-12** - Primary text about marriage and divorce
4. **Malachi 2:15** - God's desire for godly children from covenant marriage
5. **Ephesians 5** - Paul's teaching on the mystery of marriage (specifically the "two become one" concept)
6. **1 Corinthians 7** - Paul's teaching on abandonment as grounds for divorce
7. **Colossians 3:19** - Command for husbands to love their wives and not harm them
8. **Hebrews** - Scripture being alive and active (likely Hebrews 4:12)
9. **1 John 1:9** - Confession and forgiveness of sins
10. **John 4** - Jesus and the woman at the well

### ## Additional Relevant Verses Based on Themes:

#### ### Marriage as God's Design:

- **Genesis 1:27-28** - God created male and female
- **Proverbs 18:22** - Finding a wife is finding a good thing
- **Hebrews 13:4** - Marriage should be honored by all

#### ### Covenant and Commitment:

- **Ecclesiastes 5:4-5** - Keeping vows made to God
- Malachi 2:13-16** - God hates divorce; keeping faith with covenant partner

### ### God's Power to Restore:

- \*\*Joel 2:25\*\* - God restores what has been lost
- \*\*2 Corinthians 5:17\*\* - New creation in Christ
- \*\*Ephesians 3:20\*\* - God able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine

### ### Forgiveness and Grace:

- \*\*Romans 8:1\*\* - No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus
- \*\*2 Corinthians 12:9\*\* - God's grace is sufficient; power made perfect in weakness

### ### Sexual Purity and Cohabitation:

- \*\*1 Thessalonians 4:3-5\*\* - God's will is sanctification and sexual purity
- \*\*1 Corinthians 6:18-20\*\* - Flee from sexual immorality
- \*\*Hebrews 13:4\*\* - Marriage bed to be kept pure