

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

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Principle 1: God's design for Marriage is a Covenant, not a Contract.

Genesis 2:21,22,24-25 (NKJV) – *"²¹And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed 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." ²⁴Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."*

Joshua 9:18-19 (NKJV) – *"But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers."*

¹⁹ *"Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, 'We have sworn to them by the Lord God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.'"*

Matthew 19:6 (NKJV) – *"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate."*

Principle 2: God's design for Marriage Reflects a Picture of Christ and the Church.

Ephesians 5:32-33 (NKJV) – *"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

³³*Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."*

Ephesians 5:20-21 (NKJV) – *"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God."*

Principle 3: God's design for Marriage is Fruitful and Missional.

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) – *"Go therefore and make disciples..."*

Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV) – *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."*