



"Reclaiming God's Design"

Pastor Jason West | August 10, 2025

I. God's Design: Marriage is Part of God's _____ Plan

• God's Word:

Genesis 1:4 "And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness."

Genesis 1:31 "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

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.'"

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____

II. God's Design: Marriage Is _____, not a Contract

• God's Word:

Genesis 2:21-23 "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. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 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.'"

Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Matthew 19:6 "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____

III. God's Design: Marriage Is Between One _____ and One _____

• God's Word:

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."

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____

IV. God's Design: Marriage Is a Means to _____ and Disciple

• God's Word:

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.'"

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____

Psalms 127:3-5 "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."

V. God's Design: Marriage _____ God's Faithful Love

• God's Word:

Ephesians 5:29-32 "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. '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."

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____

VI. God's Design: Identity and Value Are Found in God, Not in _____

• God's Word:

Genesis 1:26a "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"

• Culture's Lie: _____

• The Truth: _____



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BACKGROUND:

As we continue our study in the book of Ephesians, we see that the Apostle Paul, although not married himself, has a lot to say about marriage and relationships within the family. In today's study of Genesis 2:18-25, God describes His design and purpose of marriage. God has stated plainly that marriage is His idea. Not only did He define it in the Garden of Eden, but Jesus also reiterated God's design for marriage in the New Testament as well (*Mark 10:6-8*).

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. A word of encouragement: Not everyone in your group may be married. Be sensitive to those who may be single, divorced, or widowed and encourage them that many of the principles and values found in a healthy marriage as God designed it, can translate to their other relationships as well.

Read Genesis 2:18-25 and discuss:

- What would you say is the primary purpose of marriage?
- In verse 18 we see the only time God declared something to be "not good" as it relates to what He created. What was "not good"?
- How is "aloneness" contrary to the nature of God?
- What was God's first objective in creating marriage?
- How is it significant that God chose to make a woman as Adam's companion?

2. God designed marriage to be a holy, life-long covenant relationship between one man and one woman.

- Read *Jeremiah 3:20*, *2 Corinthians 11:2*, *Ephesians 5:31-32* and discuss how is God's design for marriage is to be a picture of His relationship with those He calls His own?
- Many wedding ceremonies include the phrase "Holy Matrimony". In what sense is the marriage relationship holy (set apart) from other earthly relationships (*Genesis 2:24*)? In what ways should this union be protected, nurtured, cherished, and dedicated to God?

- In what ways can knowing that God's design for marriage is to be a covenant as unbreakable as His covenant with the Church affect your perspective on marriage?
- How does it encourage your faith when you consider that Jesus is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride?

3. With God's intention for Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply (*Genesis 1:28*), we see another aspect of God's design for marriage – family.

- From what you've discovered about the design and purpose of marriage, how can a family honor God by providing for, nurturing, protecting, loving, caring, and helping one another?
- In what ways is the family the building block of society?
- How profound and prophetic is it that in *Genesis 2:24* where it says that "a man shall leave his mother and cling to his wife"? (Note: There was no "mother" at this time. Adam and Eve haven't had a child yet at this point.)
- From what you know of God's design for the family, what should the relationship look like between God, spouse, parents, children, extended family, and spiritual family?

TAKING IT HOME:

4. When God married Adam to Eve, He said it was "very good" (*Genesis 1:31*). However, every marriage since The Fall faces seasons of difficulty. It is only when we embrace God's design and purpose for marriage and follow His instructions do we begin to experience the abundant life He promises.

- If you were to impart wisdom to a newly married couple, what would it be?
- Because of our sinful nature, selfishness, and our inability to love each other perfectly the way Jesus loves us - every marriage can use some help. Has anyone in your group benefited from a mentor, marriage classes, or counseling? If so, would you share your experiences?
- Find out how you can be praying for each other's marriages and for those who are single, divorced or widowed. How can you and your spouse come along side others to comfort, support, or encourage them?