

OF MARRIAGE
& SEXUALITY

Genesis 2:18-25

XVI. Of Marriage & Sexuality

We believe God is the author and designer of marriage which joins one man and one woman in an exclusive and lasting covenantal union as delineated in scripture. Marriage is purposed by God for work (Gen. 2:18), procreation (Gen. 1:28), pleasure (Prov 5:18–19), sanctification (1 Cor 7) and illustration (Eph 5:25, the love of Christ for His bride the church). We believe that God designed sexual intimacy to occur between one man and one woman within the limits of marriage to one another. Any form of sexual immorality (porneia) is sinful and offensive to God who designed sexual intimacy with purpose. Examples of sexual immorality include but not limited to: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, and any attempt to change one's sex. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the local body of Christ, all members, volunteers and staff should abide by this statement. Moreover, we believe that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake sin, and believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and dignity.

*God designed marriage and sexuality
on purpose and for a purpose;
What He designed, only He can restore.*

I. The Designer — Who made it

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.”

Genesis 2:18

ESV

If God is the designer of marriage,
then it is not ours to redesign.

If God is the designer of sexuality,
then it is not ours to redesign.

If God is the designer of identity,
then it is not ours to redesign.

If God is the designer of family,
then it is not ours to redesign.

If God is the designer of the body,
then it is not ours to redesign.

The moment you say that marriage is a human institution, you have opened a door that cannot be closed. If it is human, it can be humanly revised. But if it is divine — if God Himself is its author and architect — then it stands outside the reach of human revision, no matter how clever or compassionate the argument for revision may be.” — D.A. Carson

II. The Design – What is it

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.”

Genesis 2:18

ESV

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

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.

Genesis 2:19–20

ESV

III. The Direction – What It's For

Purposes of Marriage:

Purposes of Marriage:

Work

Purposes of Marriage:

Work
Procreation

Purposes of Marriage:

Work

Procreation

Sanctification

Purposes of Marriage:

Work

Procreation

Sanctification

Pleasure

Purposes of Marriage:

Work

Procreation

Sanctification

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Illustration

“Marriage between a man and a woman is not merely a social arrangement. It is a theological statement. It says something about the nature of God and the nature of salvation that nothing else in creation can say in quite the same way. To redefine marriage is not merely to change a social institution. It is to obscure a gospel proclamation.” — John Piper

There is a God who loves His people with a faithful,
exclusive, sacrificial, permanent love.

IV. The Distortion – What Broke It

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:25

ESV

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:7

ESV

“Sin does not merely damage the soul; it disorders the affections. The heart that was made to love God above all things now fastens its deepest loves on lesser things. And nowhere is this disordering more painful than in the realm of human sexuality, because nowhere was the original design more glorious.” — Martyn Lloyd-Jones

V. The Deliverer – Who Restores It

What the Deliverer Offers:

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Forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

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Renewal (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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Forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

Renewal (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Community (Galatians 6:2)

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