



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part I – God’s Design for Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:21-32

From the beginning, God had a specific design for marriage. In Genesis 2, we witness the very first marriage ceremony in all creation: Adam being united to Eve, his bride. When asked about divorce and remarriage, Jesus points back to the foundation of marriage by describing God's design for human sexuality at creation. The union between a husband and wife is the most important picture in the Bible of how intimate our relationship with God can be. God is portrayed as the Husband who loves us, and we are the wife, who responds back to Him. In the New Testament, Christ is pictured as the groom and the Church is His bride. In honoring God’s design for marriage, we uphold the union of one man and one woman, united for life, with loving intimacy that reflects Christ. Most importantly, every marriage - even those not consciously aimed at God's glory - reflects the greater covenant between Christ, the redeemer-husband, and the Church, His bride.

READ:

Genesis 2:18-25 • Ephesians 5:21-32 • Matthew 19:4-6

- Why is marriage such an important institution to society?
- What is the one thing that God says was “not good” in the whole creation account of Genesis 1-2? Why was it not good for man to be alone? What did God do to help meet the need for companionship?
- Marriage was part of God’s creative act when He made humanity in His image – “male and female He created them” (Gen 1:27). Why is this significant for understanding our role as image bearers who reflect God’s glory into the world?
- Why do you think there is such a push in our culture to redefine marriage?
- In Matthew 19:4-5, why do think Jesus quoted the words of Moses (Genesis 2:18-25) when asked by the Pharisees about divorce? What did Jesus say is God’s design for marriage? (Matthew 19:6)
- How is marriage a picture of Jesus’ relationship with the church?
- What does it mean for the husband to lead his wife? What does it mean for the wife to be a “suitable helper”? (Eph 5:21-32)

DISCUSS:

- Why are so many Christian marriages breaking up in our day? How can the church offer compassion and care to those who have suffered divorce, yet hold tight to Christ’s teaching on divorce?
- How can the church teach the truth of God’s design regarding marriage, yet also show Christ’s love to those who hold a different view?
- Is marriage the only way people can meet their need for companionship? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, what is the biggest hindrance to developing a healthy, Christ-centered marriage?

PRAY:

If you’re married, pray that your marriage reflects God’s original design. If single and desire to be married, pray that you will grow in godliness and purity, and pray for a mate who is committed to do the same. If you’re single and content to remain single, then use your singleness to bring glory to God and His work.

RESPOND:

REVIVE: Night of Marriage – Friday, May 14th 6pm.

Registration – theridge.cc/events



Sermon Notes

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The word, *revive*, comes from the word *revival*, meaning to restore to new life, to new strength or to restore to new power. Revive means to take something that is dead or dying and bring new life into that thing.

- 1. A revived marriage is one with Jesus in the center of two people who are putting God first in every area of their life.**
- 2. God designed marriage to meet a need for companionship**
- 3. God designed marriage to be a union between one man and one woman, united for life.**
 - The word, “cleave,” means to be intertwined or braided together as one.**
- 4. God designed marriage to be a picture of our relationship with Jesus.**