

Marriage by Design 05: "Intimacy"
Genesis 2:18-25

May 17, 2026

Big Idea: Husbands generally seek sexual intimacy; wives generally seek relational intimacy.

The Series

"Marriage by Design" is not about what may or may not be wrong with your marriage, it's about God's original plan for this most sacred relationship possible between a man and a woman. Today we will address *intimacy*. For most men, when we hear the word "intimacy," we think of sexual intercourse. Women on the other hand, most often think about romance: the perfect proposal, deep and meaningful conversation, privacy, exclusivity, and love.

Intimacy is Oneness

Plain and simple, intimacy is oneness, and whether we know it or not, that's what we are looking for when we pursue meaningful relationships with the opposite sex. Remember, by God's design men and women complete each other. To boil down a relationship to the selfish motivations of sex and romance is to miss the whole point.

Cultural Misunderstanding #5: Intimacy is only sexual or only relational.

This is where couples go wrong early in the relationship. He wants sex; she wants romance. This is why God commands purity before marriage. It is only in the marriage relationship that intimacy can become both sexual and relational at the same time. This nourishes husbands and wives on a very deep level.

- 1. Take Responsibility "...leave...is united...one flesh..." v.24a.** On the wedding day everybody believes they are ready for a lifetime of "intimacy." She will enjoy all the relational romance she can stand, and he gets to have sex every night. She will now leave her father and cleave to her husband. He will leave his mother and cleave to his wife. Ladies, your father is no substitute for your husband. Neither is a mom a substitute for a wife. Leave and cleave... one flesh.
- 2. Make the Commitment "...is united..." v.24b.** Literally, "*be joined to.*" Intimacy is the muscle in any marriage. Intimacy connects you to the one you love in an exclusive way. What you share with your husband or wife is private and not shared with anyone else. That is why immorality and adultery are so poisonous to a marriage.
- 3. Own the Transparency "...they were both naked...felt know shame..." v.25.** This is not simply referring to physical nakedness. Transparency is being who we are emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually, and giving another the freedom to do the same. Hiding what we know about ourselves does not generate responsibility or intimacy.

Summary

Marriage is the arena to build both relational and sexual intimacy. Men focus on providing relational intimacy. Wives focus on granting sexual intimacy. It's a real momentum builder! And it's by God's design.

Family Night – Read Genesis 2:4-25

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What was the name of the garden God created? What two trees were in the middle of the garden (v.9)? What was the one rule God gave to Adam (vv.16-17)? Why do people get married (v.24)?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What was God's intention for marriage? How do men and women complete each other? What do you think it takes to achieve 'oneness' in marriage? Why is oneness so important?"

Prayer: "Father, we want You to help us build oneness in our home. Thank You for the gift of marriage. Amen."

<p>Velocity (Middle and High School Students) Velocity: No Velocity this Wednesday. Gravity: Gravity Today in Both Services.</p> <p>Today's Songs <i>Honey in the Rock</i>.....Brooke Ligertwood <i>Worthy</i>.....Elevation Worship <i>This Is My Song</i>.....North Point Worship</p> <p>Musicians Needed We are looking for musicians to play in the band on Sundays. Fill out a Communication Card. Thanks!</p>	<p>Graduation Recognition Graduates will be recognized on stage today in both services.</p> <p>Kenya Mission Trip is June 4-14</p> <p>Summer Camp "Amazonia" June 8-12 For Current Pre-K-2nd grade students. Register online. Cost is \$20. If you signed up to donate a snack item, they are due by May 31st. Thank you!</p> <p>Velocity Rafting Trip is June 22-26.</p>
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