

**Big Idea:** Oneness is God's primary purpose in marriage.

**Series – By Design**

Over the next few weeks we're going to talk about marriage. But instead of asking, "What's going wrong with marriages?" I want to ask a better question: "What was God's original design for marriage?" Let's go to the original designer. *Genesis 2* tells us marriage was God's idea before government, before culture, before civilization.

**Cultural Misunderstanding #1: Marriage is about Fulfillment**

Early on, relationships can be very fulfilling. You make me happy and I make you happy. This becomes the expectation of each spouse. That's because everyone is seeking fulfillment in marriage and that becomes the unspoken goal. God's design for marriage is for a man and a woman, in all their masculine and feminine differences, to become "one." Not just "one flesh" in the sense of the physical, sexual union, but more than that – intimate, ultimate oneness.

**God's Purpose in Two becoming One**

1. **Two become One to mirror God's image (Genesis 1:26-27).** The nature of the Trinity is "relationship." Each member of the Trinity complements one another perfectly as "one." Yet, each plays a unique role in the divine plan of the universe. It's the same with husband and wife.
2. **Two become One to mutually complete one another (1Corinthians 11:11-12).** To mutually complete one another means to create something together that does not exist apart. This presupposes that men and women are essentially *not* the same, and a male needs a female (and vice-versa) to be complete.
3. **Two become One to illustrate the relationship between Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:25-30).** As a husband and wife honor one another, love each other unconditionally, put the other's needs before their own, and serve one another, they illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church. Jesus leads by serving.
4. **Two become One to multiply a godly legacy (Genesis 1:28).** Neither women nor men are made emotionally, spiritually or physically to raise children by themselves. It can be done, but it is not ideal. The evidence that children do better in homes with their two married, biological parents is overwhelming and undebatable.
5. **Two become One to serve as a foundation for a healthy society.** God created marriage as the basic building block upon which to construct a society. Historians tell us that every civilization that strays from the union of a man and a woman in marriage will eventually collapse.

What can I do?

- ✓ Keep your faithwalk on track. Individual oneness with God is the key to oneness with a spouse.
- ✓ Seek ways to improve your own marriage. The time to start saving your marriage is NOW.
- ✓ Teach your children about oneness in marriage. It's never too early to instruct them.

**Family Night – Read Genesis 2:4-25**

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Who created the world and everything in it? What was the garden named? Why did God put Adam in the garden (v.15)? Why did God create Eve (v.18)? Why do we leave our parents when we get older?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why did God create Eve? How would you describe 'oneness' in a marriage? What did Adam mean in v.23? What does it take for a married couple to become one?"

**Prayer:** "Father thank you for moms and dads. Please unify our home. Amen."

<p><b>Velocity (Middle and High School Students)</b> <b>Velocity:</b> Meets this Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30. <b>Gravity:</b> No Gravity Today</p> <p><b>Today's Songs</b> <i>I Thank God</i>.....Maverick City Music <i>Blessed Assurance</i>.....Elevation Worship <i>How Good It Is</i>.....Chris Tomlin</p> <p><b>New Series "Marriage by Design"</b> Part 2 Today. No matter where you are in life, building strong homes by God's <i>Design</i> is the ideal path.</p>	<p><b>Small Groups</b> A small group can be you and one friend doing a Bible study together. Get started! We can show you how.</p> <p><b>Baby Dedication</b> May 10<sup>th</sup> in both services. If you would like to participate, sign up at the Welcome Desk. Choose which service you will attend and take an information sheet home with you.</p> <p><b>Velocity Summer Camp</b> Rafting Trip is June 22-26 for rising 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Contact Tyler to sign up!</p>
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