

## Marriage by Design

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### We do not flourish when we live against God's design.

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Prov 14:12

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ... <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ... <sup>20b</sup> But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Genesis 2:15, 18-22

### God's design for marriage...

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:23-25

- One man and one woman joined together in a permanent, exclusive, legal commitment to share every part of their life with each other.

Complementary - Together, we can be more than we can apart. (v. 23)

Covenant - In marriage, love is a commitment first and a feeling second. (v. 24)

Commitment - Commitment comes before nakedness. (v. 24-25)

- When commitment comes before nakedness, there is safety to fully be yourself. *This* is real intimacy.

### Thinking of pursuing a relationship?

1. Date with the end in mind.
2. Get perspective and wisdom from trusted others.
3. Set up boundaries and standards.
4. Maintain purity.

## Let's Talk About It

When you understand God's design, you'll understand how deeply God loves you and wants you to flourish in your relationships. Some of our biggest decisions and some of the biggest regrets have to do with our relationships. The Bible gives us a beautiful picture of what God intended marriage to be. The marriage covenant is the highest commitment that two people can share. When we view marriage the way God designed it, we can approach our relationships in a way that glorifies Him, honors others and strengthens us to fulfill His purpose and experience the blessing of real intimacy.

Proverbs 14:12-13; John 10:10; Genesis 2:15, 18-25

### Purple Book, Chapter 1 questions:

- What have you learned about sin and salvation from Chapter 1?
- Read Romans 6:23 & 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Why is sin so serious to God? What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ? How do you receive it?

### Sermon questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- **[Single people]** Read Genesis 2:15, 18-25. How does understanding God's design for marriage help shape your approach to dating? If you're in a relationship or thinking of pursuing one, how will the four areas mentioned help you honor God in your relationship? Is there one in particular that stands out?
- **[Married people]** Read Genesis 2:15, 18-25. How does understanding God's design for marriage help you engage in your marriage? What specific area might you need to invest in your spouse and give to your marriage?
- How is *commitment* necessary to provide the environment for real emotional and physical intimacy? How would *nakedness before commitment* potentially hinder you from feeling safe to fully be yourself?

### Take a Step

- **[Single people]** What decision can you make today to prepare for the kind of marriage you would like to have?
- **[Married people]** What decision can you make today to love your spouse and *commit again* in your marriage?

### Here's My Prayer

Father, thank You for creating me for relationship with You and others. Please shape and reshape my view of marriage and empower me to see it as you do. Strengthen me to consider how I approach my friendships, my dating relationships/my marriage, and show me how I can honor You through them. In Jesus' name, amen.