

# Come to the Wedding!

Genesis 2:18-25

God established two institutions to reach the world with the gospel, marriage and the church. Marriage is to be an illustration of the relationship of Christ and the Church. The Church is to take the word of God to the world and make disciples of all nations. It should be no surprise, then, that both institutions are under attack in today's culture.

During this series, we want to rediscover what Scripture says about marriage and the family. What is God's plan for marriage, husbands, wives, parents, children, and grandparents? What is our role and responsibility in each one of those areas?

In Matthew 19:3-6, Jesus is asked a question about divorce. His answer was to go back to the beginning. What did God say in the opening chapters of the Bible about marriage and the family? In going back to Genesis 2:18-25, we discover that *marriage is to be exclusive, publicly recognized, permanent, consummated by sexual intercourse, and leads to intimacy.*

## **Day Six of Creation (Genesis 2:4-17)**

God creates man and places him in the Garden of Eden to care for it.

The garden was prepared for Adam. The trees were beautiful and edible, an orchard for man to enjoy.

Adam served and worshipped God by tending the garden. Work is a good gift from God, not a punishment for sin.

God gives man the prohibition not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam was denied the tree in order to test his obedience and prove that he was willing to place himself under God's command.

## **The First Marriage (Genesis 2:18-25)**

God designed man to live in community, even as God does. Thus, it was not good for man to be alone and isolated.

Adam needed a helper who corresponded to him.

Rather than being a secondary role, helper is a significant role. The Hebrew word is used 19 times in the Old Testament. 16 of them refer to God as our Helper.

God allows Adam to discover his own lack of helper through the process of naming the animals.

God put Adam into a deep sleep in order to demonstrate that his own works had no part in the process. Eve was totally a gift of God's grace.

The woman was made from the man, for the man, and named by the man.

“Adam” comes from the Hebrew word for earth. “Woman” sounds similar to the Hebrew word for “man.” Moses (writer of Genesis) identified Adam by his relation to the ground, but Adam identified his wife in relation to himself.

Adam rejoiced when he discovered God’s gift.

Verse 24-25 clarify God’s purpose in marriage. Marriage is to be:

Exclusive – one man and one woman

Publicly recognized – leaves father and mother

Permanent – cleaves or holds fast to

Consummated by sexual intimacy – become one flesh

Leads to intimacy – naked and not ashamed

### Principles of marriage

God instituted marriage.

Marriage is monogamous, one man and one woman.

Marriage is heterosexual. Same-sex marriage was never part of God’s plan.

Marriage is a covenant relationship that is to be permanent.

Marriage leads to physical, emotional, and spiritual union.

Adjust your leaving during different seasons of marriage

<b>Newlyweds</b>	<b>Early Marriage</b>	<b>Middle Marriage</b>	<b>Mature Marriage</b>	<b>Senior Marriage</b>
End your <i>dependence</i> upon your parents	Establish your <i>independence</i> from your parents	Ensure your <i>independence</i> from your parents	Enable your children’s <i>independence</i> from you	Exercise <i>superintendence</i> over your aging parents
<i>Leave home</i>	<i>Start your home</i>	<i>Visit your parents’ home</i>	<i>“Children, please leave home!”</i>	<i>“Mom &amp; Dad, Come back to our home!”</i>
“Good-bye parents—Hello sweetheart!”	“Dad, I don’t live here anymore—stop telling me what to do!”	“Mom, can I drop off the kids for the weekend?”	“Do you think our children will ever leave home?”	“Dad and Mom can’t do what they used to—they now need our help.”