

KEY VERSES

Matthew 19:3-11 ESV - *And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" v.4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, v.5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? v.6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." v.7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" v.8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. v.9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." v.10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." v.11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given.*

NOTES

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

1. The glory of God is seen in the _____ of marriage.

Ephesians 5:31, 32 ESV - *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." v.32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

- The closest we can come to understanding God's agape love for us is in the context of marriage. (Genesis 1:27 ESV)
- **God patterned marriage after the covenantal commitment**
_____ has for his _____.

2. Marriage is a showcase of God's _____ of grace.

- **Marriage is a model of covenant** _____.
- Christ Jesus will never forsake His bride, the church, and we should not forsake ours. (Malachi 2:16 ESV)
- **Marriage is a model of covenant** _____.
- Every time you choose to forgive, you display the covenant-keeping grace of God.

- Marriage is a model of covenant _____.

- God gave the very first couple a purpose for their partnership.

Genesis 1:28 ESV - *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..."*

- A marriage of two people who are committed to discipleship will naturally bear fruit together for the Kingdom of God.

John 15:8 ESV - *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

Galatians 5:22, 23 ESV - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...*

Godly children
Godly character

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

1. God created marriage with a specific plan.

- God's plan is revealed in the very _____ of marriage.
- God's plan involved one man and one woman united for a lifetime in the covenant of marriage.

Matthew 19:5,6 ESV - *'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? v.6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'*

2. God planned marriage to be a one-flesh union.

- Becoming _____ is the heart of God's purpose for marriage.
- God Himself unites the two into the one-flesh union.
- Oneness in marriage extends to the whole person: spirit, soul, body.
 - Oneness is enjoyed when a couple finds a perfect _____ in these three areas.
 - Oneness of soul/mind brings harmony and vision in your present circumstances and for the future.
 - Physical oneness is one of the only gifts that God gave to the human race to be enjoyed exclusively between one man and one woman - a husband and a wife.

3. God's plan for marriage is seen in the biblical roles of husbands and wives.

- Biblical Roles for Marriage:

- The husband's role is headship.

Ephesians 5:23 ESV - *"For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church..."*

- The wife's role is helper.

Genesis 2:18 NKJV - *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

- These are different roles, but equal _____.

No matter the challenges and disappointments you have experienced in your marital journey, God's purpose and plan for your union has not changed!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you are married, what did the Holy Spirit reveal to you about your own marriage?
2. Have you ever considered that God not only has a plan and purpose for YOU, but also for your marriage?
3. What can you do this week to increase oneness with your spouse?
4. Discuss how increased spiritual intimacy can benefit a marriage relationship.
5. How can this lesson about God's design for marriage help a single person in your group?
5. Where do you see culture contradicting God's plan for your marriage?