

“Biblical Foundations of Marriage”

Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33

MARRIAGE IS SACRED. Genesis 2:18-25

- Sacred = a special relationship; set apart, “holy”

1. The First Marriage. Genesis 2:18-22

- **God (not Adam) said it was “not good” that the man should be alone. v.18**
-So far in the Creation account God declared everything “good” & “very good.” Ref. 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31
-The fall into sin doesn’t happen until Genesis 3.
- **God showed Adam his need for a helpmate. v.19-20**
-God brought the animals before Adam so he could name them. No creature shared his image or nature.
- **God (not Adam) provided a woman for Adam and brought her to him. v.21-22**
-v.22: God “made” = fashioned, built, modeled

2. The First Song. Genesis 2:23

- **The Hebrew text moves from prose to poetry.**
- **Adam “at last” recognized a helper suitable for him.**
- **The woman was “of” him—but different from him.**
-She shared his image, his nature (unlike the animals).
- **He calls her “Woman”. Heb. for ‘man’ = *ish*; Heb. for ‘woman’ = *ishshah***

→ She’s like me—but not like me. I.e., *hetero*

- What do we learn from the first marriage between Adam and Eve?

1. Marriage is _____.

2. Marriage is _____ by God.

MARRIAGE IS SIGNIFICANT. Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:25-33

- “Significant” = root word is “sign”

1. Marriage is significant because it is prescribed for all peoples and all times. Gen. 2:24

- The language moves from specific (Adam and Eve) to general (everyone). “Therefore a man shall...”
-Leave his father and mother and... LEAVE
-Hold fast to his wife and... CLEAVE
-They shall become one flesh WEAVE
- This is part of the larger “cultural mandate” (ref. Genesis 1:26-30). “Normative” for all.
- It is good for all nations, peoples, cultural, societies when one man remains married to one woman *for life*.
- Genesis 2:24 is referenced 4 times in the NT: Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:7; 1 Cor 6:16; Ephesians 5:31

2. Marriage is significant because it is a living representation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Eph. 5:22-33

- In marriage, wives are to be subject to their husbands—just as the church is subject to Christ. **v.22-24**
- In marriage, husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loved the church. **v.25-30**
-A husband takes his lead from Christ...
-He gives himself up for her. v.25
-He seeks her spiritual growth and well-being. v.26-27
-He loves her as himself. v.28
-He nourishes and cherishes her. v.29
-He joins with her. v.30-31

→ This refers to Christ and the church. v.32

→ Personal Testimony...