

THE MASTER'S
COLLEGE



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M A B C
GRADUATE
PROGRAM

God's Design For Marriage

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Introductory Perspectives on Marriage



1. Origin of problems in marriage

Many marry for the wrong reason:

- ➔ promiscuity
- ➔ compensate for faults (run from)
- ➔ to realize an image
- ➔ marriage is a way to legitimate sex

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2. The family under attack

- ➔ playboy philosophy
- ➔ gay and lesbian agendas
- ➔ entertainment mediums: TV sitcoms, internet, movies, radio
- ➔ materialism
- ➔ substitutes for marriage: trial marriages, contract marriages, live-in lovers, semi-marriages, pre-nuptial agreements, etc.

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3. The overall effect is two-fold

1) Many young people are unsure about marriage.



2) Many in marriage have lost hope.

4. The Church of Jesus Christ has lasting answers and must proclaim them!

I. Contemporary presuppositions and God's design

A. Secular theories and marriage

Marriage is not a result of man's theories.

Evolutionary caveman arrangement

If man developed marriage then man can destroy marriage

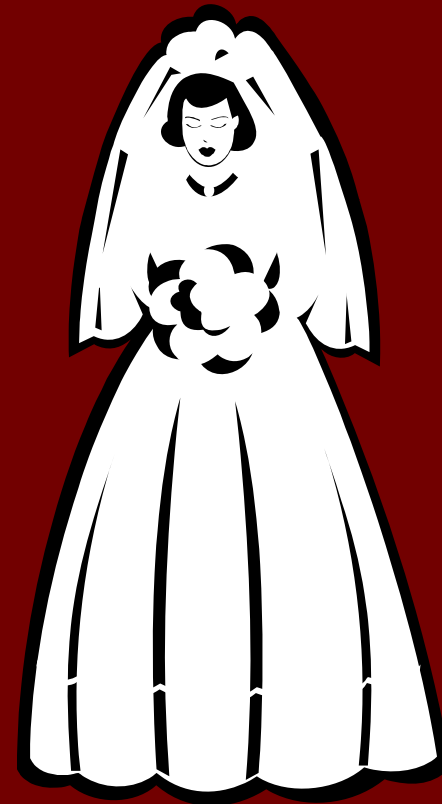
B. Scriptural theology and marriage

Marriage was given by God. (Gen. 1:26-27)

If God created marriage then He has answers for marriage when it gets into trouble which means there is hope!

II. Christian presuppositions and God's design (Genesis 1:27, 31)

- A. Celibacy is not the norm. It is not more holy to be celibate.**
- B. Marriage is not to be disparaged. It is holy and honorable.**
- C. Sex and procreation is a part of marriage. Gender distinctiveness is called very good.**



II. Christian presuppositions and God's design (Genesis 1:27, 31)



- D.** Marriage is not to compete with human options or substitutes.
- E.** Marriage is the picture of Christ's relationship to His bride the Church. It teaches an important spiritual reality about God's relationship to His people.

III. Creation theology and the original design (Genesis 2:18-23)

A. Original purpose of marriage (2:18)

~~Gen~~ Hebrew, "to be alone," it was not good
Companionship is the purpose of marriage.

B. Original partners in marriage (2:19-23)

~~Gen~~ Hebrew, "suitable helper," a fitting completer, ideally suited for him.

The animals would not do. God did not create a father, mother, child, sister, brother, playmate for Adam. He created a wife!

IV. Covenantal bond in marriage



A. A covenant (Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14)

with Hebrew, “covenant,” to cut a covenant!

Marriage was considered a sacred unbreakable bond, a lasting lifetime commitment.

IV. Covenantal bond in marriage

B. The essential unity of marriage (Genesis 2:24)

1. Leave

- a) parent/child \Rightarrow temporary
- b) husband/wife \Rightarrow permanent

2. Cleave

Weld together; basis is commitment!

3. One flesh

Physical, parenting, financial, etc.!

