

C. Marriage is a lifelong covenant relationship between one woman and one man. *Gen 2:19-20, 24; Matt 19:4-5*

1. Why does God bring all of the animals to the man?
2. No other creature is a suitable helper.
3. Only a woman can complete a man (and only a man can complete a woman).
4. Mankind has perverted God's design. *Gen 2:24; Rom 1:26-32; Matt 19:5, 8; 1 Tim 3:2; Deut 17:17; 1 Cor 7:2* (polygamy, divorce, fornication, etc.)

D. God has a gift for everyone.

1. Most of us are incomplete alone.
2. Some are uniquely called to the single life. *1 Cor 7:1, 7-8; Matt 19:12*
3. God gives His gifts of marriage and singleness, not that we might pursue our selfish pleasures, but that we might glorify Him. *Jas 1:13*

E. Did God create some people to be homosexuals? *Jas 1:13*

1. Homosexuality is a perversion of God's design. *Gen 1:27; 2:24; 19:5; Lev 18:22-25; 20:13; Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 6:9; Rom 1:26-27, 32; 1 Tim 1:10; Jude 7*

2. Why are some people homosexual?

- Environmental factors? Genetic factors?

- Such rationale could be used to justify every kind of sin and evil.

- Homosexuality, like every other sin (i.e. adultery, drunkenness, and fornication), is a personal choice to rebel against God.

3. Is it all right to be a non-practicing homosexual? *Matt 5:27-28; 15:19*

- No more than it is acceptable to be a non-practicing adulterer (lust), murderer (hate), drunk, or rapist.

- Sinful thoughts and desires in the heart will lead to sinful acts. *Jas 1:13-15*

- We are responsible for how we think. *Phil 4:8-9*

- God's grace transforms our thoughts and desires. *Rom 12:2; Gal 5:24; 1 Thess 5:23*

4. The movement of our society to accept homosexuality is a sign of God's judgment upon us.

Isa 5:20; Rom 1:18-27, 32; Gen 19

5. The most loving and courageous thing we can do is to call homosexuality sin because God forgives and transforms. *Ps 119:128; Jas 5:19-20; 1 Cor 6:9-11*

God Established Your Roles as Husband and Wife from Creation

A. The wife is to submit to her husband's leadership.

1. Male headship was God's design from the beginning. *1 Cor 11:8-9; 1 Tim 2:11-13*
2. The woman was made to be a helper to the man. *Gen 2:18; 1 Cor 11:8-9*
3. The man exercises dominion: naming the animals (and woman). *Gen 2:19-20, 23; 3:20*
4. The creation account refutes the claims of evangelical feminism. *Gal 3:28*
 - Male dominion did not evolve because of the man's superior size or strength
 - Gender roles are not merely a cultural issue.
 - Male headship is not the result of the fall.
 - Male headship was God's design from the beginning.

- The New Testament proves that wives' submission did not end with the cross. *Eph 5:22-24; 1 Pet 3:1-6*

5. Women are not demeaned by submission.

- Headship does not imply superiority of personhood, but involves distinction in function according to God's design.

- Subordination does not make the woman inferior. *1 Cor 11:3*

- The servant's role is glorious. *Mark 10:42-45*

- The submissive wife fulfills God's design in her life.

6. The fall has distorted the marriage roles. *Gen 3:16; 1 Pet 3:1-2, 7*

- Women tend to reverse the God-given roles and dominate their husbands. *Gen 4:7*

- Men tend to be domineering and insensitive in their leadership.

B. The husband should love and honor his wife. *Gen 2:21-23*

1. Why did God choose such an unusual method for creating the woman? *Gen 2:21-22*

2. The husband should respect his wife because she is equally human, in the image of God.

Gen 1:27; 1 Cor 7:8-9; 1 Pet 3:7

3. The husband ought to love and cherish his wife as part of himself. *Eph 5:25-30*

- His leadership is to be loving and sacrificial: *Eph 5:25-27*

- He is to care for his wife as part of his own body. *Gen 2:23; Eph 5:28-30*

Concluding Applications

A. Marriage is a Divine institution.

1. The first marriage was not just a mating (like animals) but a covenant ceremony at which God gave away the bride.

2. All subsequent marriages are to follow the pattern of the first.

3. Every marriage involves 3 persons: man, woman, and God.

4. All people are accountable to God for how they treat marriage.

5. Those who tamper with marriage will be judged by God. *Heb 13:4*

B. Marriage is meant by God to be a blessing for mankind.

1. Adam rejoices in the spouse God gives him. *Gen 2:23; Prov 18:22*
2. God still brings together Adams and Eves.
3. Rejoice in the spouse God has given you. *Gen 2:23; Prov 5:18-19*
4. The primary goal of marriage is to glorify God.

C. Marriage is designed by God as a picture of our relationship to Him.



Books

Harvey, Dave, *When Sinners Say I Do*.

Keller, Tim, *The Meaning of Marriage*.

Tripp, Paul, *What Did You Expect?*



Audios

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Grace."

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Sin."