

# BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: GOD'S DIRECTIVE FOR MARRIAGE

Introduction: The "Magna Charta" of Marriage *Gen 2:24*

## Leave: Your Marriage Creates a New Family Unit

- A. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship.
1. Even the parent-child relationship is temporary and changing.
  2. This truth is reflected in the wedding ceremony: the giving away of the bride.
  3. Grown children should still honor their parents. *Exod 20:12; Mark 7:9-13*
- B. Failing to leave (or let go) is a violation of God's design.
1. Geographically: Is it wrong to live in proximity to family members?
    - There are problems when married children live under their parents' roof
    - There are situations in which grown children should take care of their aged parents.  
*Mark 7:9-13; 1 Tim 5:8*

2. Economically: Is it wrong for parents to help out their children? *2 Cor 12:14*
  - Young people should not get married until they are ready to take on the responsibilities of marriage. *Eph 5:29*
  
  - Sometimes money comes with strings attached.
  
  - Under some circumstances it can be appropriate for parents to help their children.
  
3. Emotionally: You can't go back to your mother.
  - Some parents won't let go.
  
  - The harm of a child-centered home.
  
  - The best thing you can do for your kids is to invest in your own marriage.

## Cleave: Your Marriage is a Lifelong Covenant of Companionship

- A. Marriage is permanent: "Until death do us part".
  1. Marriage is a commitment (contract).
    - The bond that unites a man and woman is not metaphysical, but covenantal.

- Remember your wedding vows. *Ps 15:4*

2. The key to staying together is to eliminate the option of separation or divorce.

3. Marriage is not eternal. *Matt 22:30*

B. Marriage is designed by God to be the most intimate of human relationships.

1. Your spouse is to be your best friend: companion and “helper”. *Gen 2:18*

2. It takes time and effort to build intimacy: communication.

- Quantity and quality time.

- Learn to listen. *Jas 1:19; Phil 2:1-5; Prov 20:5*

- Learn to express yourself lovingly and openly. *Eph 4:29*

C. Violations of God's design.

1. A low view of the marriage covenant going into the marriage.

2. Divorce. *Matt 19:3-9; Mal 2:14-16*

- “No fault divorce” compounds the problem.

- Divorce is also widespread in the evangelical church.

- God allows protection for the innocent party when their spouse breaks the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment. *Matt 5:32; 19:9; 1 Cor 7:15-16*

3. Separation: legal or otherwise. *Matt 19:6; 1 Cor 7:2-5; 1 Pet 3:7*

4. Lack of communication and love in marriage. *Prov 17:27-28; 18:2; 10:8; 27:2; Eph 4:29*

## One Flesh: Your Marriage Is the Only Place Where God's Gift of Sex Is to Be Enjoyed

A. Why did God create sex? *Heb 13:4*

1. The key to understanding sexual morality is to positively affirm what sex is for.

2. The physical union is a symbolic expression of the marriage covenant. *Gen 2:24; 4:1*

3. Sexual union in marriage is meant to produce children. *Gen 1:27-28; Ps 127*

- Children are a blessing from God.
  
  - God wisely puts children into families to be raised by a mother and a father.
  
  - We are called to fill the earth.
4. The physical union in marriage is meant by God to be pleasurable for both the husband and the wife. *Deut 24:5; Prov 5:18-19; Heb 13:4; Song of Solomon*
  
  5. We need to teach our children a healthy biblical view of sex.

B. Any other sexual expression is a violation of God's design. *Ecc 7:29; Rom 1:18-32*

1. Lust: fantasies and pornography. *Matt 5:27-28; Jas 1:15; Job 31:1; 2 Sam 11:2*
  
2. Fornication: Seeking the privileges of marriage without taking on the obligations. Sex between a man and a woman who are not yet married. *Heb 13:4*
  
3. Adultery: A married person having sex with anyone other than his or her spouse. *Exod 20:14; 1 Cor 6:16; Prov 7:27*
  
4. Other sexual perversions: homosexuality, etc.

## Concluding Applications: What God Has Joined Let No Man Separate!

*Matt 19:6*

- A. Do your part to protect marriage. God is involved in every marriage.
1. Romance is for marriage. If you are single, protect your upcoming marriage by not “leaving, cleaving, and one-fleshing” before you are married.
  2. Marriage is for romance. If you are married, protect your marriage.
    - Positively: Invest time and effort in marriage relationship: Enjoy the blessings God has given you.
- B. Relate to one another by grace.
1. Love your fellow sinner
  2. Give to your spouse the overwhelming grace that God gives you
    - Christ does not treat you as your sins deserve but rather loves you as His spotless bride.
- C. The gospel is the best hope for marriage



## 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."