

# The God-Designed Marriage\*\*

## Outline:

### I. The Character of the God-Designed Marriage

- A. Prepared by God (Gen 2:18-24; Prov 2:6-7, Mal 2:7-17)
- B. Purposes Determined by God (Gen 1:27-28; 2:18-24)
  - 1. Companionship (2:28-24)
  - 2. Sexual Intimacy (2:24)
  - 3. Children (1:27-28)
- C. Permanence directed by God (Matt 19:3-19)

### II. The Functions within the God-Designed Marriage

- A. For the Husband (Eph 5:22-33; 6:4; Col 3:21; 1 Tim 5:8)
- B. For the Wife (Eph 5:22-33; 1 Pet 3:1-6; Prov 31)
- C. For Both (Eph 5:21)

## Study Guide: God-Designed Marriage

### I. Prepared by God

- A. List three things you believe the Scripture means in Genesis 2:18. Here are some samples:
  - 1. The creation was not completed ("not good").
  - 2. While animals make good friends, man is alone in the world without someone of the opposite sex.
  - 3. God was not satisfied with only the creation of man or that man was incomplete.

(1)

(2)

(3)

- B. According to Genesis 2:22b, "and brought her unto the man, Awho initiated the marriage ceremony?

Who was the father the bride?

Who blessed the "wedding"?@

What implications does this have for your wedding?

List them:

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C. In Malachi 2:14, marriage is called a "covenant." Look up this word in a dictionary of theology or a Bible dictionary. In light of its definition, draw three practical conclusions about "God Prepared Marriage." (Here are some suggestions.)

1. Marriage is not a contract which can be broken if one of the partners defaults.
2. Since God sets the boundaries, I am responsible to him to fulfil my responsibilities.
3. It is necessary for each one to work with their mate to solve problems in our relationship. What are three possible problems?

(1)

(2)

(3)

## II. Purposes Determined by God

### A. Companionship

1. Why do you think Genesis 2:19-20 is sandwiched between 2:18 and verses 21 and 22?
2. What are five conclusions from the words *Alone* and *help meet* in Genesis 2:18 that reflect God's purpose of companionship in marriage?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

3. List the implications you can think of for companionship suggested in Genesis 2:24.
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4. In Malachi 2:14, what does the word *your,* which modifies the word *companion (KJV/NASB) /partner (NIV)* suggest?

B. Sexual Intimacy (Genesis 2:24)

1. As you think of the entire Bible, What is its consistent teaching about intimacy and the legitimacy of sexual relations?

What are the boundaries? (Heb. 13: 4)

2. In the light of 1 Corinthians 7:15 (read in a couple of translations), what conclusions can be drawn about the frequency of sexual relations?
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3. In light of the same passage, write out your reaction to sexual relations?
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4. If biblical love is self-giving, what should be our focus in sexual relations?
  
5. List as many reasons as you can think of why sex is not just for procreation.
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C. Children (Gen 1:27-28)

1. Do you think that every couple should have children, if they can, in light of these verses?
  
2. Do you think there is an order of priority here, i.e., companionship, sex, children? Give reasons for your response:
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3. In light of your general knowledge of Scripture, what does you think is the position and purpose for children in a marriage?

D. Permanence directed by God (Matt. 19: 13-19; 1 Cor. 7-10-16; Rom 7:1-3; see also Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18)

1. What does God pleasure regarding marriage?
  
2. Does God permit divorce?
 

If so, for what reason?

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3. If divorce takes place, is forgiveness still required of the offended party?

Explain your response:

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4. If divorce takes place as result adultery, is reconciliation required?

Explain:

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5. In of Ephesians 5:22-32, what is one reason for which God desires permanency in marriage?

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E. Functions within God-Designed Marriage

1. For the Husband (Eph 5:16-6:20; 1 Pet 3:7-9)

- a. The exact verses that speak to husbands are 5:25-32.
  - 1) List the commands that precede this in Eph 5:15-21
  - 2) How do these commands affect what is said in 5:25-32?
  - 3) List one implication for each command in 5:15-21
  
- b. How does Ephesians 6:10-20 affect husbandly functions?  
List some implications.

- c. Perhaps the most important command is found in 5:18. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? How will, being filled affect your husbandly functions?
  
- d. With privileges, come responsibilities. In Ephesians 5:23, God says that the husband is the head of the wife. List at least five responsibilities that you understand to come with headship.
  - (1)
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
  
- e. Give three synonyms for "headship" as you understand it in the context of marriage.
  - (1)
  - (2)
  - (3)
  
- f. Since husbandly example is to follow the model of Christ over His church, read Jn 13 and describe how Jesus exercised leadership.
  
- g. List seven ways you can lead your wife after His example:
  - (1)
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
  - (6)
  - (7)
  
- h. Did, or does the church deserve the love of Christ?

- I. Must your wife be meeting her responsibilities for you to love her? (Eph 5:25).
  
- j. After studying Eph 5:26-27, who will God hold responsible, to some extent, for the wife's development?
  
- k. Check out the word "nourishes" and "cherishes" in Ephesians 5:29. List five ways you can **nourish**, and five ways you can **cherish** your wife.

Definition of Nourish@:

Definition of Cherish@:

*I can **nourish** my wife by:*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

*I can **cherish** my wife by:*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

- 1. In the light of 1 Tim 5:8, list five ways of managing your home:
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
  - 5)

2. Functions of the wife.

a. Read Ephesians 5:22-24. These verses particularly address the responsibilities of the wife in marriage. Pay attention to these especially in the context of Eph 5:16-6:20. List the commands given in 5:15-21 and list one implication for each of these commands for you and your partner in the light of 5:22-24.

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b. Peter speaks to wives in 1 Peter 3:1-6. Note that he uses 2:18-25 as his example. With this in mind, how would Ephesians 6:10-20, practically affect the wife's lifestyle?

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c. How would you apply 1 Peter 3:1 to a Christian couple?

d. Define "*submission*." Check the dictionary and other sources; cf. also Bible Dictionaries, etc., if you have access to them. List five implications of submission for the wife:

Definition of *Submission*:

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Implications of submission:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

- e. What conclusions would you draw from the example of Christ (John 10:18 and 17:4) regarding the wife's position (inferiority or equality) to her husband?
- f. Submission is a sign of strength not weakness. Jesus submitted himself to the will of the Father (John 13; Phil 2:1-11). What characterized Jesus life on earth? Joy, ease, delight, comfort, suffering, humility or humiliation? (Circle three)

What enabled Jesus to handle His lot in life the way he did?  
Study 1 Peter 2:23 for clues to your answer.

- g. The conventional wedding vow says, "for better or for worst." In the light of the previous question, what does this vow mean to you?
- h. God clearly teaches that Christians are to be subject to the powers that exist. However, in Acts 4:19, the Apostles served notice, by their determined refusal to submit to the presumptuous demands of the authorities, of their allegiance to a higher authority. What implications does this principle have for wives?

Give three examples when you think a wife would be justified in not submitting to her husband:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

3. For Both (Eph 5:21)
  - a. ***For the women to answer -***
    - (1) List three ways your husband may be submissive to you without invalidating or compromising his leadership.
      - (a)
      - (b)
      - (c)
    - (2) How is the "headship", which Christ gives the husband, submissive in character? (Phil 2:7)
    - (3) As a single woman you have had a great deal of freedom. How will being submissive to your husband affect changes in your lifestyle? List what you think might be the three most difficult areas for you to deal with:
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  - b. ***For men to answer:***
    1. List three examples of submitting to your wife without invalidating your headship:
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    2. As a single man you had been independent. How will, being submissive to your wife affect change in your lifestyle? List the three most difficult areas for you to deal with:
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**\*\* (This Bible Study was adapted from Three to Get Ready, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House) Howard A. Eyrich,, pp. 79-87)**