

## The Christian Home - Establish a Spiritual Foundation in Marriage - Gen. 2:18-24

God united the first man and women in holy matrimony, establishing the institution of marriage. There is no other way we should view marriage except the way God gives it to us: by divine design. **According to the text tonight on the first marriage, the key to finding the person God wants you to marry is to go to sleep in God's Will, and allow Him to bring that person into your life.** It is not that the person is not available - it is that you are not available to God as you should be so that God can bring that person into your life. A sad truth is that there are just as many marriages that end in divorce among couples that go to church as there are couples that do not go to church.

### **1. The Pattern for Marriage - Genesis 2:21-24**

If we are going to have marriage by divine design, then we must see that God has designed a pattern for marriage. We all know that Adam and Eve had no earthly parents, yet in the pattern God gave, a man is to *LEAVE his father and his mother*. The husband is still a child of his parents, but when he takes on the responsibility of marriage, he is to have the authority of his own home, and is to no longer be treated as a child by his parents. **In other words, he does not depend upon his parents as a child would depend upon his father and mother.** He must LEAVE his parents and *CLEAVE unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*. Without the LEAVING, there cannot be the CLEAVING that brings oneness in marriage. God's pattern also is for a MAN and a WOMAN to come together (Gen. 1:26-28). There are plenty of verses that condemn homosexuality, and we don't have time to review them all. In every marriage, an example is set for the next generation. We should pray, **"Lord, help me to live in such a way before young people, and all people, that they will see the Christian marriage we have, and will desire to have this kind of relationship in their lives."** Just because a husband and a wife are both Christians, and their children attend Christian school, does not mean that they have a Christian Home. Your children are going to be challenged about what they believe and what they have been taught at home (even in Christian school). If they do not see a Christian marriage lived in your home, no amount of Sunday School or Christian school will be enough.

### **2. The Purity in Marriage - Hebrews 13:1-4**

Our marriages are to be pure. If it is not pure, then you are a *whoremonger* or an *adulterer*. **In its biblical context, an adulterer is someone in a marriage union who breaks that relationship of purity by engaging in a sexual activity with another person.** The word *whoremonger* is referring to someone who isn't married, but engages in sexual activity outside of the bonds of marriage. **We should be faithful in the marriage relationship because God says it is His design!** Prov. 2:11-16. A *strange woman* does not mean that she looks strange or behaves strange. The Bible defines the word *strange* as a something that is foreign and that doesn't belong to you. When I introduce Brittany, I say, "She is my wife." By using the personal pronoun *my*, I am saying that she belongs to me - she is mine. Every other woman, in this sense, is a stranger to me. You should not begin to develop any interest in anyone else of the opposite sex because that person does not belong to you. If you are married, and someone from the opposite sex complements how you look, then watch out! You may be about to engage in what could be the greatest tragedy of your life! Prov. 2:16-19; Prov. 6:24-26. **You may see in the beginning a pleasant person, but in the end, this relationship with someone who does not belong to you will end up causing long-term heartache, if not tragedy!**

### **3. The Permanency of Marriage - Matthew 19:3-9**

Marriage by divine design has permanency. If you have had the unfortunate experience of going through a failure in marriage, I am sure you have come to realize that unless you get some things established in your life that are biblical and true, you are apt to repeat the same failure. Now, unless we are willing to take all that the Bible says about the subject of marriage and divorce and put it together, we are going to get a one-

sided view. I would never mistreat someone no matter how many times they've been married before, and many of these people work and serve God wonderfully and they are getting on with their lives. Thank God that his blood is sufficient to forgive all sin, and the past is the past, period. **The argument about marriage and divorce may never be settled to the satisfaction of all of God's children, but there is something that is very evident with no confusion whatsoever: The Lord Jesus Christ, from the beginning, said that it was God's divine design for a marriage to be permanent.** If you have been married, divorced, and remarried, then determine that you are going to live the rest of your life with your mate, and put the principles of God's Word to work in your marriage. But if you are still bitter and unforgiving over your last marriage, you better NOT get remarried until you first let some things go, and truly seek the Lord and His guidance LONG BEFORE you even consider entering another relationship, period. Homes and families are hurting. We are living in a wicked society where many do what is right in their own eyes and justify their actions fully. Ideas so contrary to the Bible have been established in the thinking of people. Therefore, it is much more important for those of us who claim to be Bible-believing Christians tell the truth in love, and not accommodate the decaying morals and behavior of our present world. **The only way for a marriage to have permanency is if there isn't just a degree of unity, but there is a union.** 1 Thes. 5:22-23. We are not to just have oneness in body, but oneness in spirit, soul, and body. **The spiritual union that we have with God and with one another lays the foundation for everything else in marriage.** What will help us to have this union? What will build the stability you must have if your home is to endure? You must establish a spiritual union...

- A. **Speak to one another about how you came to know the Lord and what He means to you** - Psalm 107:2. If you don't even know if your spouse is a Christian, something is very wrong. We should not be unequally yoked together (2 Cor. 6:14). Christian people should marry Christians. You ought to know each other's testimony! **Can you give the details of your mate's salvation?** So many Christians have been married for years and have never talked freely and openly about how they came to know the Lord as their Saviour and what the Lord Jesus means to them. Establishing a spiritual union in marriage begins with speaking freely with your spouse about salvation and the blessings of God.
- B. **Pray together and share answers to prayer** - Amos 3:3. You will never know the heart of your spouse until you hear that person pray. There is something very precious about hearing your spouse call out the names of your family members in prayer, as you meet together on the common ground of prayer. Gal. 6:2. Pray about everything together. It is hard to wait in marriage concerning financial decisions (purchases, jobs, etc), but **there is good instruction in the Bible that teaches us to make everything a matter of prayer.** Phi. 4:6.
- C. **Read God's Word together and share with your spouse about how God has spoken to you** - Psalm 119:103. I have really enjoyed hearing my wife read the Bible this year and I believe she enjoys hearing me read. **We ought to talk about the things in God's Word that speak to us.**
- D. **Attend Church together** - Heb. 10:25. Talk about the blessings you have received as you worship God together. It would help so many of us when we leave church not to talk about what went wrong or who was not there. **We should talk about how God spoke to us and how the Holy Spirit penetrated our hearts.**
- E. **Spend time each day talking about God's care of your lives and exalt Christ to one another** - 1 Pet. 5:7; Psalm 34:3. It will greatly benefit your marriage. Spend some uninterrupted time to talk about how good God is and how God has cared for you during the day. There is a sweet fragrance to marriage when Christ is lifted up. **It helps lighten the everyday burdens.**
- F. **Be willing to accept reproof and correction from one another** - Prov. 27:6. This is difficult to do and it is important to choose the right time and place for correction (not in a public place or in front of other people). **The congregation ought not be able to see you correcting your spouse about a private matter!** A spiritually mature man or woman, in the security of their love for one another, will listen when the other says, "For you to be the Christian you should be, this is something you need to correct." You will be able to tell much about

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your spiritual maturity by the way you respond to loving reproof. Be willing to accept correction. It will help your marriage grow.

- G. **Seek Christ for victory over annoying habits in your life** - 1 John 5:4. Many men like to say, "That's just the way I am. I lose my temper like that." Ask God to give you victory! You may never be perfect in the matter, but you can have victory over those habits. **If you have a habit you know that you should not have, ask God to give you the victory.** Wives, if you pout and hold grudges, allowing the sun to go down on your wrath (Eph. 4:26-27), that is not Christ-like. Ask God to give you the victory!
- H. **Allow nothing unclean through your eye gate** - Psalm 101:3. It is difficult in 2019 to not look at all the vile things around us, but when we purposefully put those things into our minds, we sin against our marriage. **When we allow our intellect to be motivated and our emotions to be stirred by some wicked thing that violates our marriage, we have disrupted the spiritual union that God desires for us to have.**
- I. **Desire the Spirit of Christ in your married life and cultivate a spirit of gratitude** - Phi. 2:5. Consider the tone of your voice. If your tone is harsh, hard, or driving, this is not something that you'll be able to do better by trying; it is something you get from dying - dying to self. When children come along, the husband and wife need to be together, not just under the same roof, but together in spirit to deal with the problems and difficulties their children will have. **Have gratitude, not attitude.** Prov. 25:28. If you can't cultivate a spirit of gratitude in your marriage, then I suggest you visit a nursing home together, or a pediatric hospital, or a funeral home. When you see among others who are less fortunate their spirit of loneliness, uncertainty, and grief, that will cause you to be thankful. Col. 3:15.
- J. **Build your life around the Lord** - Col. 1:18. Build your life around the Lord, not your children, not activities, and not hobbies. **Many people have built their married life around their children, and when their children are gone, they have no married life left.** They really did not have one in the first place. Each of our lives must first be built around the Lord Jesus Christ. Triangle Illustration.

How good God is to all of us to allow us to know from the Bible these things that will help us to have a spiritual union in marriage and a Christian Home. So many people have settled into simply having "a marriage" and have not allowed God to really do for them what He desires to.

### Home Work

- Know the pattern for marriage that is taught in God's Word.
- Take the responsibility to teach your children what the Bible says about marriage.
- Be faithful to your mate and maintain purity in your marriage.
- Speak to one another about how you came to know Christ and what He means to you.
- Pray together and share answers to prayer.
- Read God's Word together and share how God has spoken to you.
- Attend Church together and talk about the blessings you have received from the services.
- Spend time each day talking about God's care of your lives and exalt Christ by praising Him.
- Be willing to accept reproof and choose the right time to give correction to one another.
- Seek Christ for victory over annoying habits in your life.
- Allow nothing unclean to come through your eye gate.
- Desire the Spirit of Christ in your married life and cultivate a spirit of gratitude.
- Build your life around the Lord, not your children, activities, or hobbies.