

## The Holy Institution of Marriage (Part 2)

Genesis 2: 18-25

This morning we began to look at God's holy institution of marriage. It is something that has been brushed aside and lacks the respect or reverence that it is due. Our society seems to place little emphasis on biblical marriage any more. It is viewed as an option rather than an ordinance. We live in a take it or leave it age and marriage certainly fits that category.

I want you to keep in mind that marriage isn't something that came about as humanity advanced and increased in population. God ordained marriage with the first of His creation. Marriage isn't something that man has the right to "redefine" or ignore. God laid the foundation for marriage and He has established the guidelines that we are expected to adhere to.

I want to pick up where we left off and continue our study on: [The Holy Institution of Marriage](#). We have already considered: **The Conception of Marriage** which involves **The Lord's Sovereignty and His Solution**.

### II. The Creation of Marriage (19-22)

**A. God Revealed Man's Need (19-20)** – [And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. \[20\] And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.](#) Adam was a man of great intellect. His mind had not been corrupted by sin. He was given the task of naming all of God's creatures.

- This wasn't just a waste of time. God wanted Adam to name the animals, but He also had something else in mind. [But for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.](#) As Adam viewed and named all of the creatures, he became keenly aware that each animal had a companion. There were male and female of each species. God wanted Adam to see that he too needed a companion, a help meet. God placed a desire in Adam for a companion.
- There is nothing sinful about desiring a mate. It is placed within humanity by God. This is His design. If we will seek God in fulfilling that desire, He will provide for us. The problem is many choose to fulfill that God given desire in a lustful way rather than in a way that pleases the Lord. (This is a critical time in the lives of individuals. When these desires begin to develop, it is critical that you seek God's will in selecting a mate.)

**B. God Resolved Man's Need (21-22)** – God didn't create that desire in Adam and leave him alone in his desire. God met that need for Adam.

**1. The Providence (21a)** – *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept:* God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam. There were no other people upon the earth. Adam had no way of obtaining a mate; this was up to God. The Lord had woman in mind for man and He would create her for him. Adam had no influence or control in this.

- There is a great lesson in this for each of us. We may not like it, but God has a companion in mind for each of us. It is not up to us to secure a spouse. God has a plan and there is one whom He intends for you to marry. Far too often, folks choose their companion and never seek God. I have no doubt that Tanya and I were made for each other. Young people you would do well to seek the Lord and His will when you are thinking of getting married. Your sole purpose in life is not to "find" a mate. He will send one and He will confirm the relationship. (Now I am not implying that it is God's will for all to marry. I am saying that if it is, He will provide!)

**2. The Process (21b)** – *and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;* As Adam slept, God performed surgery upon him. He took a rib from Adam and created woman. Once again we find that God was in complete control of this union.

- It is likely that Adam woke from his sleep and didn't feel a thing, but I would like to make an application. Surgery is not something we enjoy, but sometimes it is necessary. You may be feeling that God given desire, but you haven't yet found the one that God has for you. You may not enjoy the waiting, but this too is necessary. If you get ahead of God and refuse to wait on Him, you may find yourself in a mess. Be patient and give the Lord time to work!

**3. The Picture (22)** – *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.* In the creation of Eve, God paints a picture that we all need to see and fully understand. This is something that many miss, especially in our day.

- There seems to be a distorted view of the relationship between husband and wife. Our culture has established an unwritten rule that needs to be eradicated. Wives are not to be viewed as inferior servants. They have much more to contribute than sexual pleasure, clean clothes, and hot meals. They were created to stand along-side the man.

- Matthew Henry said, "*The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.*"

## I. The Conception of Marriage (18)

## II. The Creation of Marriage (19-22)

## III. The Consecration of Marriage (23-25)

**A. Marriage Involves Affection (23)** – *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.* Adam immediately sensed a closeness to Eve. He knew that God had created her from his side. She was not just another creature of God's wonderful creation. She was made from his flesh for him. God placed a love and affection for her within Adam. She was created for him and he loved her.

- Marriage will never survive without love. Far too many enter into this holy institution out of lust, but there is no real love. If lust is all there is, what will you do when you find someone who feeds that lust more than your companion? Love is essential in the marriage agreement.
- Does your marriage seem to be suffering? Do you wonder why it isn't what it used to be? How long has it been since you showed genuine affection? I'm not talking about just saying, I love you, but demonstrating that love for your spouse. Relationships must have affection and a marriage is certainly no different!

**B. Marriage Involves Allegiance (24)** – *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* God makes a startling statement that many overlook concerning marriage. *They shall be one flesh.* God expects those who commit to marriage to remain married. In His eyes they have become one flesh. This is serious in the eyes of God!

- He reveals two things that must happen in the marriage. The man must **leave** his father and mother and **cleave** unto his wife. Marriage involves leaving and cleaving.
- We must leave. With the exception of our relationship to God, all other relationships must take a "back seat." The couple has become one and they are now the priority of each other. (There isn't a lot of leaving going on today! Many problems result because one or both are unwilling to leave the past and begin anew. You have begun a new relationship together and it will never be the same as the home you grew up in.)
- We must cleave. This means we are to "adhere to, to stick to, to be bound together by some strong bond." This takes work! There must be a commitment to cleave together. There must be a determination to stick together in the good times and the bad. I ask those I counsel to

make a promise to God before they enter the marriage agreement: that they will never result to divorce as a solution to their problems. God never intended for couples to divorce.

- If you are divorced, you are not condemned or a “second class” citizen. If you haven’t yet, you need to seek God’s forgiveness and continue to serve Him. Make a commitment today to leave and cleave to the spouse you now have.

**C. Marriage Involves Accountability** (25) – *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.* This seems a strange verse, but it is relevant. Before sin entered into their hearts, there was no shame or sinful thoughts. They were comfortable in their nakedness. Clearly that is not acceptable in our day because of sin. We live in a society that is sexually oriented. But in the beginning there was purity.

- Before sin Adam couldn’t have possessed a desire for any other but Eve. We find in this a charge to faithfulness and accountability to our spouse. God has made us one flesh in His eyes and we don’t have the right to look upon another. Many marriages have failed due to infidelity. If you are married you only have one that you need to look upon. If you are not married then there are none that you have the right to look upon!
- If you want to ensure a successful marriage, love your spouse, remain committed unto them, and keep yourself only unto them. Marriage is beautiful and wonderful if it is arranged according to God’s plan.

I trust that you have been enlightened and challenged by these verses. Young people you need to understand the responsibilities of marriage. It isn’t like buying a used car. God never intended for you to make a trade!

Marriage is the foundation of the home and the home is the foundation of society. Satan wasted no time in attacking the home and he is doing all he can today to attack and destroy the home and marriage as God intended. How is your marriage? If God has spoken to you today, you need to come and receive the help that He desires for your life.