

The Law of Marriage and Family

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: FAM02



Objective: To understand God's providential purpose for marriage.



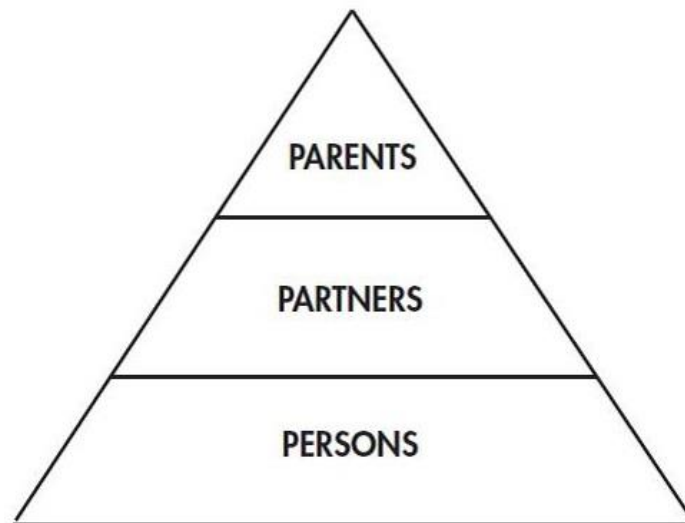
“Have you not read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

—Matthew 19:4-6

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.

—Psalm 127:4

God's design for family and marriage gives our relationship a beautiful and meaningful purpose and accomplishes His plans for the world. We see in Scripture that there is a *providential* dimension to marriage. God brings male and female together into “oneness.” Divine guidance should therefore be the basis of our decision to marry. We also see that marriage is a *permanent* relationship. Permanence is necessary for many reasons, but primarily for the children. God's design for marriage creates a home that gives children the nurture and security they need before they go into the world and face life. Marriage is also meant to be an *exclusive* relationship. A husband and wife no longer relate to their parents as their primary relationship but to each other, and they choose to relate intimately only to each other. A marriage is like a divine contract between a man and woman that binds them together. But marriage is *inclusive* in the sense that it includes every part of the husband and wife's lives: their spirits, minds, hearts, and bodies. The two become as one.



In order to live as one, married couples must seek unity first in their spiritual relationship with God. Then God can help them as they work on their ways of communicating, their values, their unselfish love, their understanding of each other, and in their physical relationship. When they live in this kind of unity, they reflect God's purpose and plan for marriage. Man and woman as whole persons become united as partners so they can be adequate parents.



1. True or false? God joins a husband and wife together and makes them one.
2. True or false? When deciding whom to marry, we can only guess and hope it works out. God does not guide us in decisions about human relationships.
3. True or false? Building a healthy Christian marriage requires two emotionally and spiritually whole, healthy persons committed to the relationship.
4. True or false? In most marriage conflicts, it is better to solve the problem in the other person first, not yourself.
5. True or false? According to the Bible, marriage is meant to be a temporary commitment.
6. True or false? God designed the marriage relationship to be exclusive.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

7. Which of the following are the four problem areas of a marriage relationship? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. The husband and his problems
 - b. The wife and her problems
 - c. The parents of the husband and wife
 - d. The husband and wife's joint problems as a couple
 - e. The unrealistic ideal of a husband and wife staying together their whole lives
 - f. The children and their problems
 - g. The husband's and wife's friends

8. Why is it good for children to see their parents being affectionate toward each other? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. It makes them feel secure.
- b. It gives them a positive attitude about marriage.
- c. It demonstrates the kind of love they will need to have in their marriages one day.
- d. It is not good. We should never show affection publicly.

9. In what sense is marriage meant to be inclusive?

- a. It involves many partners.
- b. It is a lifelong commitment to everyone in your spouse's family.
- c. It is a spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical union between husband and wife.
- d. It is not inclusive at all; it is based on many rules and limitations.

10. Which of the following words describes marriage as God designed it? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Providential
- b. Accidental
- c. Permanent
- d. Exclusive
- e. Inclusive
- f. Temporary
- g. Unimportant

11. List the seven ties, or links, of marriage.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

12. What is our most important relationship in life?

- a. Our relationship with our spouse
- b. Our relationship with our children
- c. Our relationship with our parents
- d. Our relationship with other Christians
- e. Our relationship with God

13. What is the role of effective communication in marriage?

- a. It is the tool that helps us maintain our oneness.
- b. It is the key to telling each other what to do.
- c. It is the only way to point out what is wrong with each other.
- d. It is a practical necessity for raising children.

14. Which is the most important aspect of compatibility between a husband and wife?

- a. Physical attraction to each other
- b. Having similar values
- c. Agreeing on everything and never arguing
- d. Avoiding talking to each other

15. Which is the most important aspect of love in marriage?

- a. Unselfishness
- b. Physical attraction
- c. Strong feelings
- d. Sex



King Solomon used the image of a husband and wife being like a bow and string and the children like arrows. Do you see in the marriages around you how Satan is trying to cut the string on the bow or bend the bow so much that it cannot shoot the “arrows”? If you do not change anything, in what direction will your children go? How does God’s design for marriage help you remember to ask God for His help to keep your “bow” strong and your “string” from being cut?

From your experience with marriage—either your own or that of your parents and friends—what attitudes best prepare a person to have a fulfilling marriage relationship? How does God’s design for marriage fulfill our need for a deep, intimate relationship?



Thank God for His purposes for men and women and the marriage relationship between them. If you are married, ask God to strengthen your marriage through this study of His Word. If you are not, ask Him to lead you into the right relationship at the right time. Wherever you are at this point in your life, trust God to fulfill His purposes for you.



Going Deeper

1. What are the four problem areas in a marriage? _____

2. Why is marriage a permanent tie? _____

3. What is meant by “passing the law of God through the love of God”? _____

4. In what two senses is marriage “exclusive”? _____

5. What is the foundation of oneness in marriage? _____

6. What is the definition of communication? _____

7. What are the two dimensions of communication? _____
