



Sunday, August 9, 2026
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Big Idea: A marriage built on God's Word pursues God's glory before personal happiness, resulting in lasting joy and stability.

Genesis 2:18–25 — *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 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. 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. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

If you could guarantee only one thing in your marriage over the next ten years, what would it be?

- Happiness
- Better communication
- Financial security
- Romance
- Healthy children

Scripture gives a different answer. God's primary concern is that our marriages reflect His glory.

Matthew 7:24-25 — "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

How do we create a marriage and homes that can not only withstand the storms, but stand strong and thrive? We must establish a God-Centered Marriage.

1. God's Word Defines Marriage

Marriage is not man's invention. It is God's institution. Therefore, God alone defines:

- its purpose
- its roles
- its design
- its permanence

Psalm 127:1 — *Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

Quote — “Marriage was designed to display the covenant love between Christ and His church.” — John Piper

2. Sin Destroyed Paradise But the Gospel Redeems Marriage

In Genesis 3 Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect fellowship. Then sin entered.

Every marriage experiences the effects of Genesis 3. No marriage escapes the ramifications of the Fall.

Thankfully, no Christian marriage is left without hope!

Genesis 3:15 — *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

This passage is sometimes called the First Gospel because God declares that although Satan would wound the coming Messiah ("bruise his heel"), the promised Seed of the woman, Jesus, would ultimately crush Satan's head through His death and resurrection, securing victory over sin and death.

2 Corinthians 5:17 — *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

3. The Gospel Shapes Marriage

The pattern of marriage is not romance. It is redemption. The cross becomes the model for our love.

Gospel-centered love is...

- Sacrificial
- Initiating
- Forgiving
- Patient
- Covenantal
- Grace-filled

How do we know if this is taking place?

When conflict arises, here is a question to ask yourself.

Do I respond like Christ or merely react like Adam?

Adam blamed / Christ bore blame

One protected self / One sacrificed Himself.

Quote: "The essence of marriage is a sacrificial commitment to the good of the other." — Tim Keller

4. God's Design Brings Joy

Psalm 128

Biblical Principle

Obedience always precedes blessing.

Marriage Principle

Healthy marriages happen when two people compete in obedience instead of competing to be right.

Quote — "The biggest danger in your marriage is not your spouse. It is the sinful self that lives inside you." — Paul Tripp

A strong marriage is not built by finding the right person. It is built by two imperfect people continually submitting themselves to the perfect Word of God.

Learning to Live

1. What foundation is your marriage practically built upon right now—comfort, romance, success, children, or God's Word?
2. What does it mean for your marriage to exist primarily for God's glory rather than your personal happiness?
3. What is one area where you've been expecting your spouse to change before you're willing to obey God?
4. How would your home look different if both spouses consistently asked, "How can I serve?" instead of, "What do I deserve?"