



LOVING YOUR SPOUSE

2.2 Each married member is focused on the flourishing of their spouse.

What is the purpose of marriage? The Bible has a lot to say about this topic, so let's explore.

Why is marriage even a thing?

Read Genesis 1:24-31 and Genesis 2:18-25.

The **first reason** that the Bible gives for the existence of marriage is simple: God saw that Adam needed a helper ([Genesis 2:18](#)). These are the primary purposes of marriage—fellowship, companionship, mutual help and comfort. “It is not good for man to be alone.”

Since the first marriage was between the first man and the first woman, it is assumed that marriage is God's will for most people. It was instituted by God Himself at the beginning, on the 6th day of creation, and He saw that it was good. Because God instituted marriage and proclaimed it as good, it is a holy institution.

How can we practice holiness in our marriages? What does this kind of love look like for you both? Consider the four purposes for marriage mentioned above: fellowship, companionship, mutual help, and comfort. Each of these is a practical gift we give and receive with our husband or wife. Each of them can be given more often with more intentionality every day. Is your radar tuned to the needs of your spouse for these things? What does *fellowship* look like to your wife? What does *mutual help* look like for your husband?

Q. Your marriage is holy. What is one way you are willing to communicate that to your spouse today?

Q. Of the four original purposes of marriage, what do you think your spouse needs you to focus on to help them flourish?

The first marriage became the first family

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

This is the **second reason** God gives us in scripture for marriage; that we could fulfill His desire that His people were fruitful—that they bear Godly offspring. This was God’s desire for mankind before and even after our fall into sin.

Malachi 2:13b-15 You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. (14) But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. (15) **Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

A Godly family is a blessing to God and from God. It’s not just about having kids; it’s about the family unit and all that it means to every person in it. It gives us a better understanding of what it means to be in God’s family, to be His kids. Godly families are holy.

While not all families have children, those that do need to see them the way God does. (See KMI 2.3 where you can explore this further.) One thing is certain: He desires to have Godly children raised in His Kingdom.

Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church

Finally, marriage is a beautiful picture of the relationship between Christ and His church. The body of believers that make up the Church are collectively called the bride of Christ. As Bridegroom, Jesus gave His life for His bride, “to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word” ([Ephesians 5:25–26](#)). His selfless act provides an example for all husbands. At the second coming of Christ, the church will be united with the Bridegroom, the official “wedding ceremony” will take place, and with it the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized ([Revelation 19:7–9; 21:1–2](#)).

Each of these **three pictures of marriage** holds a purpose intended by God from the beginning. How we care for our spouses and our marriages is an important part of our calling and our sacred work before God. Marriage is holy and is part of His story for us.

Write a note of blessing for your spouse here and then read it to them.

SUMMARY

God created marriage and called it good. His desire for marriage was to give us blessings through love, companionship, care, fellowship, and comfort. He desires Godly families raising Godly children to be part of His Kingdom. He wants us to be a picture of Christ and the church to the entire world. Cause it to flourish!

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Being aware of your spouse's needs and working to cause them to flourish is leadership at home. Be **INTENTIONAL** about this; work at it.

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- Legacy Leadership Forums Marriage Retreat (June 2024)
- KMI Lesson 2.3
Godly Children
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
The Meaning of Marriage
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/408404>