

## Good News about God's Way for Marriage and Parenting

Mother's Day 2024

---

*"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name." – Ephesians 3:14-15 (New International Version)*

### Marriage and Parenting God's Way (A \*Very\* Basic Overview/Review)

1. God designed, initiated, and sanctioned marriage as the fundamental and \_\_\_\_\_ human relationship to build society.
  - a. As defined by God, marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a lifelong, sexually \_\_\_\_\_, mutually upbuilding, and fulfilling relationship.
  - b. The state can regulate and redefine marriage for \_\_\_\_\_ purposes, but it cannot replace God's ontological truth.
2. God created humanity as male and female. Note: both sexes are equally endowed with the image of God.

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." – Genesis 1:27 (English Standard Version)*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ each other. Note: "Helper" does not denote subordination or inferiority. The same term describes God \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament (e.g., Exodus 18:4; Psalm 33:20).

*"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" – Genesis 2:18 (ESV)*

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

*"Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.'" – Genesis 2:22-23 (NIV)*

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ creation together. Note: It is only after woman is created, they are joined together as husband and wife, and the creation mandate has been issued that God declares everything He made as "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Upon this, God's creative work was done, and He rested (Genesis 2:2).

*"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.'" – Genesis 1:28 (ESV)*

2. God crafted most (not necessarily all) men and women to become husbands and wives. Note: The Bible does include other forms of marriage (e.g., polygyny, levirate) but these are never advocated. Jesus cuts through the whole issue by \_\_\_\_\_ the original creative intent of Genesis 2:24 (Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:6-8).

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." – Genesis 2:24 (ESV)*

- a. "A man shall leave..." = \_\_\_\_\_ and responsible.
- b. "Hold fast" ("unite or join") = marriage as \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. "one flesh" = \_\_\_\_\_ sexual union and emotional intimacy.

*"Since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband." – 1 Corinthians 7:2 (NIV)*

3. In Ephesians 5:25-32, the Apostle Paul relates a "profound mystery" about marriage: human marriage pictures the relationship between Jesus and His people (the Church). Paul instituted the "novel" idea of a husband loving his wife sacrificially just as Christ "laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16). The union of Jesus with His people is pictured as a \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 19:6-9).
4. God calls many (not necessarily all) to become fathers and mothers.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Dad.

*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." – Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)*

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Mom - Proverbs 31; 2 Timothy 1:5.

*"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching." – Proverbs 1:8 (NIV)*

### Good News about Christ-Centered Marriages and Parenting

1. In the last few years, extensive research has been conducted, particularly on the religious impact of American marriages. The findings are \_\_\_\_\_ and encouraging [See Brad Wilcox's *Get Married* and Nancy Pearcy's *The Toxic War on Masculinity*].
  - a. Conservative evangelical (belief + practice) couples have the lowest divorce rate. Husbands are the happiest, commit the least domestic violence, and are the most emotionally engaged dads. Wives are the most secure and happy.
  - b. The worst rates in all these categories are among those who are \_\_\_\_\_ in belief and church involvement. Abuse and divorce rates are higher than non-religious.
2. What about California? – despite being the vanguard promoting the progressive ideology that destroys the family unit, recent research by the Institute of Family Studies shows California has a higher percentage of \_\_\_\_\_ family structures with kids in the home.
3. This is why our leadership has committed so strongly to \_\_\_\_\_ discipleship and family life ministry.