

**The Christ | Marriage**  
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Genesis 1.26 -27, Genesis 2.18-25: spells some things out that are really important for us.

1.27: Male AND female created in God's image. There is **pure equal VALUE** in God's Kingdom.

2.18: It's **not good** for man to be alone. Eunuchs need grace, but others don't. Men's conversation. A bachelor's house. We are deficient without women.

2.18: God needed to make a **partner suitable** for him. God wants something suitable (not identical) for Adam. The man needed a woman, not another man. Eve created as a helper or partner for Adam (2.18). Helper used for someone greater than the one being helped (like God in Psalms). Eve was made from his side, close to heart.

**Men and woman are different. This is good!** Physical, Emotional, Wired. Male and female reflects a dimension of the trinity, different yet equal, unity.

Adam (man) has a headship / responsibility role. God spoke to Adam first after the fall. Adam was a family leader. Ladies are the nurturers, mothers, but it's not restrictive. Proverbs 31. **We must enjoy our differences!**

**Thessalonians:** Mother: affectionately desirous of you, share our lives, nursing mother, taking care of her own children. Father: exhorted, encouraged you and charged you. **(SOCCER)**

**Distortions:** Men either deny their role (cowards) or use strength in aggressiveness instead of protection. A woman, instead of being helpful can be domineering or totally unhelpful.

**2.23: This woman get's given to Adam in "Marriage".** God walks her down the aisle. God created a way for this to be worked out. His design: man and woman should be married, become one flesh and stay that way forever. **Due to the prophetic nature of marriage (Eph 5).**

Many things on earth that point to God. Shadow around a corner Marriage is a **shadow of the relationship** that God desires to have with us, his people. **Marriage is making a statement.**

- 1. Marriage is monogamous** (a picture of Christ and us). **Not monotonous. Actually better.**
- 2. Marriage is between a man and a woman.** Homosexuality isn't natural or normal.
- 3. A partner is given by God not hunted** ( ) Get on with your life.
- 4. Marriage is designed to create independent families** (2.24) leaving your father and mother.
- 5. Marriage is a uniting of two people.** 'cleaves to his wife' permanence, faithfulness, loyalty. Becoming one flesh, 2 yet 1. God designed us to attain interpersonal unity as we see in the trinity. Not just physical but a spiritual and emotional unity that God has joined together (Matt 19.6).
- 6. Marriage is the context for sex:** The world always talks about sex. It's amazing. Sex is a fruit of this commitment. This is why sex is so powerful (1 Cor 6.16) Sexual union outside is a horrible sin as even in marriage our bodies are not our own. (1 Cor 7.3-5). This is the problem with long dating.

The fact that marriage is a picture of Christ and the church is **sobering** (picture to world and God takes it seriously and **helpful** (we can see how God treats us and vice versa):

**So how does God treat us (Eph 5):**

**Laid down his life for us:** 1) Jesus came to serve; you need to serve your wife. 2) Jesus does not treat us as our sins deserve – love covers a multitude of sins, so you must be able to overlook the small irritating things. How often we must irritate God, yet He loves.

**Covenant of Love:** 1) Covenant that is made. They could just live together forever, but they are representing heaven, a declaration to the world of the covenant God makes with us. 2) His love for us is demonstrated. ‘Love must be made flesh’.

**How are we to treat God:**

**Make him the most important thing in our lives:** 1) Woman find it east to love, not always to follow. 2) No space for idols! ‘**You shall have no gods before me**’, ‘**Love the Lord your..**’

**Follow him:** Allow him to lead, respond to him and respect him.

**Hebrews 13.4: “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled”.**

1. Never make rude jokes about marriage
2. Honor your spouse publically (verbally and physically).
3. Save yourself for marriage
4. Remember Jesus, the perfect husband