

WHAT IS “MARRIAGE”?  
(Genesis 2:18-25)

I. The ORIGIN of Marriage

A. Humanity was CREATED as a MARRIED PAIR (Genesis 2:18-25)

1. God FORMED Eve from Adam’s SIDE
  - a. To be Adam’s HELPER
  - b. To complement Adam’s CHARACTER
  - c. To be Adam’s LIFELONG COMPANION
2. God ESTABLISHED marriage (Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9)
  - a. Joined one MAN and one WOMAN into a single PAIR
  - b. Established a LIFE-LONG union distinct from other relationships (Rom. 7:2-5)

B. God PROHIBITS all OTHER sexual union

1. Between men and women outside of MARRIAGE (1 Cor. 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Thes. 4:2-8)
2. INCEST (Lev. 18:6-18)
3. BESTIALITY (Lev. 20:15-16)
4. SAME-SEX relations between men or women (Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26-27)

II. The PURPOSE of Marriage

A. To make humanity COMPLETE—combining two SEXES into one UNIT (Gen. 1:27; 2:24)

B. To give humanity FULFILLMENT—a MAN and a WOMAN ministering to one another

1. The husband’s ministry is to SACRIFICE for the good of his wife (Eph. 5:25, 28)

2. The wife's ministry is to SUBMIT for the good of the family (Eph. 5:22-24)
  3. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to STRENGTHEN both for service (Eph. 5:18-21)
- C. To produce a human RACE—a population of beings physically and spiritually RELATED but made in GOD'S IMAGE
1. To FILL and TEND the earth (Gen. 1:28; 7:13-16; 8:18; 9:1)
  2. To WORSHIP and SERVE God (Deut. 4:40; 6:6-7; Hos. 4:6)
- D. To provide human ORGANIZATION—the basic unit of society is the FAMILY (Ps. 127:3-5; 128:1-6; 2 John 1:4; 3 John 1:4)
1. Providing STABILITY
  2. Providing SECURITY
  3. Providing CONTINUITY
- E. To illustrate God's purposes in REDEMPTION (1 Cor. 6:6-18; Eph. 5:22-32)

### III. The DEFINITION of Marriage

- A. It is a PERMANENT relationship
- B. It is a UNION of TWO PEOPLE of opposite SEX
1. It is not merely a CONTRACT to LIVE together
  2. It is not merely people who LOVE each other
  3. It is CORRUPTED by MULTIPLE spouses
  4. It can no more include a SAME-sex "union" than it could include a DIFFERENT species "union"