

“Honor Marriage”  
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Note: Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

## HONOR MARRIAGE

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

### Why we should honor marriage

1. Marriage is God’s idea. Genesis 2:18

“The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

- God Himself instituted and ordained marriage at the very beginning of human history.

2. Marriage is for Companionship. Genesis 2:20b-23

“But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 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.”

- The biblical idea of Companionship in marriage is a relationship in which there is constant commitment and intimacy.
- The intimacy of biblical companionship extends to every aspect of human nature.
- Commitment and intimacy are necessary to defeat loneliness. “It is not good for man to be alone.”

3. The Obligation of Marriage – Genesis 2:24

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

- The basic obligation of marriage is to meet the other’s need for companionship.
- God designed marriage to make you holy not happy.

Proverbs 18:1 “*It’s selfish and stupid to think only of yourself.*” (CEV)

- Marriage is a lifelong course in learning to be unselfish.
- God created marriage for the perfection of our character.

4. The Commitment of Marriage – Mark 10:2, 5-9

“Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife.’ ‘It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,’ Jesus replied. ‘But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will

become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

- God’s Equation for Marriage: When One Plus One Equals One (Genesis 2:24)
- The Bible describes marriage as a “covenant,” the word for the most solemn and most binding agreement known to mankind.
- Marriage involves a covenantal agreement to meet all of your spouse’s needs for companionship (on every level: sexual, social, spiritual, etc.) for the rest of your life. (Romans 7:2)

God’s plan for marriage involves four commitments that are lived out over a lifetime in the power of the Holy Spirit:

1. Receive Your Spouse
2. Leave Your Parents
3. Cleave to Your Spouse
4. Become One Flesh

“It means far more than a mere physical meeting of bodies. The Scripture is talking about the mystical union between husband and wife that unites two people as total persons.” (Clifford & Joyce Penner)

God’s plan is for sexual relations to be enjoyed within the context of a committed marriage relationship.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.”

5. Love and Marriage – The model for married love is God’s love for His Church. Ephesians 5:25-27

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Romantic love is not a biblical basis for marriage. The love that is an essential part of the marriage covenant is deeper than romantic love. It involves the giving of one’s self toward another. Feelings of love follow acts of love.

- Love in the Bible begins with giving.
- Love is the giving of yourself for another; it is giving your time, your interest, your thought, your consideration, your money, your creativity, or even your very life.

6. Marriage Is Bigger than the Two People in It. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

“When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.”

- Vows are made to God or before God; in other words, with God as a witness.
- Marriage is a perfect vow made before a perfect God by two imperfect people; only God can make it work.
- If you want success in your marriage, commit yourself to that which does not change. Commit yourself to the one who established the institution of marriage. He will become your center of gravity and help keep you solid.

Hebrews 13:4a “Marriage should be honored by all...”