

Wife HER! Bible Study

February 2019: "The Blueprint: God's Design for Marriage"

"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."

Malachi 2: 15

Malachi 2:15 was the focus verse of my wedding. I fell in love with the scripture years before I met my husband because it gave marriage purpose beyond convenience and financial benefit. God brings believers together (*"He makes them one"*) and threads within their union the Holy Spirit (*"with a portion of the Spirit in their union"*) in order to create a suitable framework and nurturing environment for raising children up in the knowledge of the Lord. I thought then, and I still think now, that that intention was so beautiful.

Why do you feel it is beneficial for children to grow up in such a household?

God's intentionality is woven all throughout creation. After God made humans, He blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28). God designed marriage to be a conduit for reproduction and multiplication; not just of children, but of talents and businesses, et cetera.

The very first marriage was created by God. God looked upon Adam, whom he had set to work in the Garden of Eden, and realized that there was not a suitable helper for him (Genesis 1:18; Genesis 1:20). He therefore created Eve from Adam and then presented her to him, and Adam 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 1:23).

You were not designed to complete your husband. You were fashioned from him to help him. You were crafted with him in mind. You were presented by God to him, for him.

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“Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Genesis 1: 24-25

What does the phrase “one flesh” tell us about God’s plan for marriage?

Have you been completely naked with your husband? Does he know your story? Does he know about your trauma and triumphs? Have you hid wounds and scars from his view? Are you completely naked with him? If you answered “No” to any of these questions, it’s time to do some serious soul searching.

Are you afraid the weight of who you really are will break and bend your marriage? Are you afraid that your past will unearth more harm than good? Prayerfully seek the Lord in this area. I encourage you to share if your current behaviour with and/or towards your husband or others is directly linked to an experience in your past. For example, after being in unhealthy relationships, an elevated voice raises my blood pressure and makes me feel threatened. My husband is a passionate speaker and I often interpreted this as threatening, even if we were not arguing. When I realised where this stemmed from I told him so that we could work through it together.



I have intentionally skipped a discussion of “the fall” (when Adam and Eve ate the fruit and were banished from the garden) because I feel what ensued from that act of disobedience was not part of God’s original, intended design for marriage.

<i>The First Couple</i>	
♥	Were made in God’s image (Genesis 1: 26)
♥	Were given dominion over creation (Genesis 1: 29-30)
♥	Enjoyed direct fellowship with God (Genesis 3:8)

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“Marriage is an earthly picture of the relationship between Jesus and His church, the bride of Christ. Marriages are intended to be living testimonies of Jesus’ inseparable union with believers.”

Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson, “Building a Marriage that Really Works”

Rewrite Ephesians 5:22-32 below.

What do you learn about the role of a wife?

What do you learn about the role of a husband?

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How does the marriage between a man and a woman reflect the relationship between Jesus and the church? (e.g. sacrificial love)

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled.”

Hebrews 13:4

To be “undefiled” means to be pure. Marriage is God’s pure, intended design for exploring passion, for protection, for covering, for reproduction. Marriage is regarded highly by God, so highly in fact that if a woman makes a vow to Him and her husband disagrees, God will absolve her of the vow. She shall not be required or expected to fulfil the obligation. See Numbers 30: 6-16.

Which Proverbs wife are you?

Read the following verses from Proverbs and select which wife applies to you.

- Proverbs 21:9 _____
- Proverbs 21:19 _____
- Proverbs 14:1 _____
- Proverbs 12:4 _____
- Proverbs 31:10-12 _____

Which wife are you now? Are you the nagging wife who tears down her home with her words or are you a wife who does her husband good, and not harm, *all the days of his life*? The Bible offers a high standard for marriage and for husbands and wives individually. Why? Because marriage mirrors His love and commitment to us. For centuries God has not given up on us, oh may we decide not to give up on each other.

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Lord,

Thank you for creating marriage. Thank you for honouring it and declaring it pure and good. Lord, may you please bless my marriage? I want my marriage to reflect your love for us. Please guide my steps and my heart. Please renew my mind and cleanse me. Please rid me of toxic behaviours and heal all past hurts. Please allow me to see my husband as you see him. I pray that our passion overflows. I pray that we grow in wisdom and in intimacy. May you restore our desire, Lord? May you knit us together with your Spirit and bless our household? May you bless our children and the work of our hands? May we find favour in your site? These things we ask in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

Homework

Audit your relationship. How does it compare to God's original design for marriage?