

# Love and Marriage Were God's Ideas-part 1

*Rev 19:6-9*

*6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

*7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

*8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

*9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

i. Introductions

A. Series on Basic Training

1. On Wednesday night, we started a Bible study series called Basic Training, which we

will be teaching on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings for the next several weeks.

2. I encourage everyone who can to please be here for all the lessons.
3. If you are not in the habit of attending mid-week Bible study, consider starting that discipline of the Christian life that many Christians for generations have made a part of a closer walk with God.
4. This is a good time to start that discipline because the series we have begun, Basic Training, is intended to teach some of the foundational teachings of scripture that define what makes the church the church.
5. On Wednesday, I mentioned about eleven basic training questions that we hope to address in this series.

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| a. | How do we pray?                             | h. | What is the meaning of:<br>“God made them male<br>and female”? |
| b. | What does it mean to be<br>saved?           | i. | Does modesty still<br>matter?                                  |
| c. | What is does it mean to<br>have a new life? | j. | Does how I talk really<br>matter?                              |
| d. | Who is God?                                 | k. | What is marriage?  |
| e. | What is worship?                            |    |  |
| f. | Is the Bible God’s Word?                    |    |  |
| g. | What does it mean to be<br>a good steward?  |    |  |

6. So this morning and next Sunday morning, we will cover that last question, What is Marriage? Our lesson title today is: Love and Marriage Were God’s Ideas.

## B. Lesson Intro

1. In a little over a week, the U.S. celebrates Valentines Day, a day to honor our spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend, or fiancé with expressions of love and romance. The day has come to represent a tribute to love,
2. From the loving words expressed on Hallmark cards or Hallmark movies, love draws a guy and a girl together with the impression that loving relationships are all smiles, chill bumps, and butterflies in the stomach.

3. And for many of us, that is how our relationship started, but making and sustaining a godly relationship requires much more than smiles, chill bumps, and butterflies.
4. The foundation of relationships is found in the Bible, from Genesis all the way through Revelation. A lot of direction is provided including a definition of marriage and the setting of boundaries that both make it special and protect it from violation.
5. Many long-lasting marriages of upwards of 60-70 years have shown by example that relationships guided by the scriptures have worked for thousands of years.
6. So while the idea has come open for review and redefinition in our lifetimes, I want to declare with boldness that **[slide] marriage does not need redefinition, but rediscovery**. That is the purpose of today's and next Sunday's message—to rediscover this beautiful, biblical truth.

7. It is a worrisome question to consider, but I wonder how many of our beliefs and lifestyle choices have been re-shaped by our culture that are actually contrary to the Word of God? Not only in the area of marriage, but even more generally in our attitudes about morality, godliness, righteousness, and even what is right and what is wrong?
  8. When a people veer away from a shared set of moral standards, it does not take long for morality standards to be governed by the ever-changing outcomes of the latest popular opinion poll.
  9. So back to the subject at hand. Regardless of bad press that the Bible has gotten through the years, it is like honesty—it is the best policy.
- ii. Foundations of love and marriage (Sis. Rebecca Warner)
    - A. Love

1. One of Jesus' apostles who was very close to Jesus had a good understanding of love.
2. In the gospel he wrote, instead of referring to himself by his name, John, four times he referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved."
3. It was John who wrote one of the most quoted phrases in the Bible:  
*1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love.***
4. Two powerful truths are stated there: "**If you don't have love you don't know God.**"
5. And, "**God is love.**"
6. He restates that strong connection between God and love later in the same letter:  
*1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love;** and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*
7. Since God is the origin of love, we can also look to how God so loved the world as an example of what love should look like:

*John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

8. No doubt many of you have heard of the Greek word that is translated as “love” in this verse--*agape*, which is the highest form of love—it is a love that has as its basis: giving.
9. In this context, then, **[slide] love is a choice that governs our commitment to give ourselves to and to serve another.**
10. The idea of “falling out of love” is one of those ideas that has arisen out of our culture that bases relationships not on what we give, but what we get.
11. To some, they think that once that other person no longer gives them what they want, or no longer generates goosebumps and butterflies (which sounds more like a disease), they “fall out of love.”
12. To them, great love is the feeling the other person gives them.

13. But the God who is love, defined the standard for great love, as being willing to lay down your life for them.

B. The love standard in marriage

1. And that is the high standard set for love between a husband and wife:

*Eph 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;***

2. And wives are also to learn what it means to show this kind of love to their husbands:

*Titus 2:4 That they may **teach** the young **women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,***

3. Jesus taught about love being sacrificial, and we know that He not only talked the talk, but He walked the walk when He gave His life for the church.

4. There is no better way to understand what love is than to get the opinion of the One



whose very substance is love, and who authored love.

5. So practically speaking, husbands, this is a way to pray about your marriage: “Lord, how can I give myself for my wife today to demonstrate my love to her.”
  6. And wives, this is a way to pray for your marriage: “Lord, help me to learn to love my husband in such a way that he knows he is loved.”
  7. True love is always on a path of discovery.
- C. Corresponding opposite
1. We’ve given a very brief definition of the high form of love that God asks in a marriage. Now let us look at the definition and purpose of marriage provided by the Author of love.
  2. Let us go to the book of beginnings, the Book of Genesis. Shortly after creation when we read several times, “And God said, let there be...”

3. After forming man of the dust of the earth, God said:  
*Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*
4. The phrase, “help meet” means, “a helper who corresponds” to him. Like how a glove corresponds to the hand. Like how two adjacent puzzle pieces correspond to one another. Like how two gears working in tandem correspond with one another.
5. A literal translation of the Hebrew word translated “meet” in the KJV, is “according to the opposite of him.” Our mate is a corresponding opposite.
6. They come together well because they are opposites that attract.
7. And then God took a piece from Adam’s side, a rib, and formed a woman so that man said of her, “this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.” (Gen 2:22-23)

D. Definition of marriage

1. After creating the woman, God gave us the earliest definition of marriage from God in the book of beginnings:

*Gen 2:24-25*

*24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

*25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

2. In that definition of marriage, we see one male and one female.
3. We see them separating from their parents—a provision for future generations—forming an independent union.
4. The couple will cleave, unite, join together as one flesh.
5. They were naked together without shame before God's presence.

6. The principles of marriage found in these verses were established from the beginning and are still good for today.
7. It cannot be more clear that marriage was God's idea and He set the parameters for marriage in the first book of the Bible.
8. A union based on love between a man and a woman, the attraction of opposites to help supply something missing in their mate, a separation from others to form a sacred union, and a sexual intimacy sanctioned by God.
9. Intimacy is sanctioned by God and honorable among all within marriage:  
*Hebrews 3:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*
10. But notice how sexual intimacy outside of marriage is adultery that God will judge. Another translation puts it this way:  
*Heb 13:4 Marriage must be honored among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, for*

*God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. NET*

11. We already read how the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.
12. Another passage says he is to love her as he loves his own body. And yet another says, he is to dwell with her according to knowledge, meaning he is challenged to keep studying and learning her.
13. And we read how the wife is to learn to love her husband (and her children—and children are to honor their parents), meaning love is an ongoing process of study and learning and keeping it fresh.

#### E. Summary

1. Love was designed and defined by God who set the example of how His idea of sacrificial love fits into a relationship.
2. Marriage was also designed and defined by God and includes a commitment of

exclusivity and intimacy to one another that is blessed by God.

3. And like many other things established by God, cultures that discount the authority of the Bible, find it necessary to redefine what God has already defined.
4. And it puzzles us how people who decide to hold to the scripture's definitions of these age-old institutions like love, marriage and family, are defined as haters.
5. I guess it should not surprise us if they redefine such long-regarded definitions like marriage, that they would also redefine "hate."
6. But I want to assure anyone who is paying attention, that loving God and loving His Word, does not mean we hate people who believe differently.
7. The love of Christ in us means we can love people who disagree with us and even hate us.

- iii. Marriage is enduring
  - A. Jesus restated the marriage definition
    - 1. Around 4,000 years after God gave these definitions of marriage, Jesus came along and upheld the original definition.
    - 2. Some Pharisees came to Jesus testing Him and His teaching, and asked a question about marriage and divorce.
    - 3. John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod for voicing his strict opinion on divorce, so these pharisees tried to get Jesus into the same trouble as John the Baptist. Jesus went to the Word, not popular political opinion:

*Matt 19:4-6*

*4 And he answered and said unto them, **Have ye not read**, that he which made them **at the beginning** made them male and female,*

*5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his*

*wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?  
6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but  
one flesh. What therefore God hath joined  
together, let not man put asunder  
[separate, divide].*

4. Jesus pointed to the original definition by quoting the passage in Genesis 2:24 we read, and then added, *What God has joined, let no man separate.*
5. I find it interesting that the culture of the first century that Jesus chose to be born into, was like ours. They had made a shift from God's standard and Jesus pointed them back to the original standard.
6. History tells us of a debate among popular rabbis<sup>1</sup>, Hillel and Shammai, about a generation before Jesus' ministry. The opinion of Hillel was prevailing in Jesus' day that a man could divorce his wife for any reason.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5238-divorce>



7. So it is amazing Jesus did not change to conform to political pressure, or pressure from other religious leaders.
8. He stuck with the original standard that God created made marriage to occur exclusively between one man and one woman, and that the union was made with life-long permanence in mind.
9. So in this time of celebration of love and relationships, rather than focusing on cards, roses, and heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, think about giving real, meaningful, and sacrificial expressions of love.
10. Cards get thrown away, roses wilt, some candy gets eaten, some gets squished and thrown away. Does anything lasting remain?
11. How about this? Make a mutual commitment between husbands and wives to give sacrificial love on a daily basis, pursuing a unity that brings you together as

one flesh, and honoring and cherishing your mate. That is the stuff of a long-lasting and successful marriage.

B. Paul restated the marriage definition

1. Not only did Jesus restate the original definition of marriage, but so did the Apostle Paul when writing to the New Testament churches:

*Eph 5:31-32*

*31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

*32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

2. In this study we are seeking to discover truths that were part of the early church, and we find that they affirmed that marriage was God's idea—don't tamper with it.

IV. Conclusion: marriage in the very end

1. The principles of marriage set forth in the beginning were not intended to be temporary.
2. In fact, God created marriage as parallel to Jesus Christ giving His life for the church. There is a parallel of **Christ being the groom** and **the church being the bride**.
3. This is literally a marriage made in heaven! At the end of days, just before the start of the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ, we read this:

*Rev 19:6-9*

*6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

*7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb is come**, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

*8 And to her was granted that she should be*

*arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the **righteousness of saints.***

*9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

4. God placed instructions about marriage in the first book of the Bible at the beginning of creation, and then placed a wedding in heaven in the last book of the Bible occurring at the end of days.
5. Marriage and love were God's ideas so we must keep them that way.
6. We will close with a look at Jesus's bride—the church—and see who is in it:

*Rev 7:9-10*

*9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

*10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*

7. And one final instruction in the very last chapter of the Bible—the bride of Christ is to do to be busy inviting others to come to Him:

*Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*