



*designed
to flourish*

GENDER IDENTITY IN LIGHT OF GOSPEL IDENTITY

STUDY
GUIDE

WEEK 2: THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

EPHESIANS 5:31-32

This week we look at God's flourishing design for marriage and why it is meant to be a life-long commitment between one woman and one man.

First, we discover what the marriage covenant means in light of our covenant-making God.

Second, the Bible begins with a marriage and ends with a marriage. It begins with the marriage between Adam and Eve (Genesis) and ends with the marriage of Christ and His Church (Revelation).

And here's the thing: the former marriage is a foretaste of the latter. In other words, God created marriage between a man and a woman to be a visible picture to the world of an even greater union to come: Jesus and His people (5:32).

The gospel explains our marriages and our marriages explain the gospel. God always intended it that way from the very beginning, long before the saving work of Jesus Christ had taken place.

To alter marriage is to alter the gospel. Marriage, therefore, is not a commitment to break or a make-up to alter, but designed by God to put the gospel on display. This is the meaning of marriage.

MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 5:31-32

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY **GENESIS 17:3-7**

TUESDAY **EZEKIEL 37:26-28**

WEDNESDAY **MATTHEW 19:3-8**

THURSDAY **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

FRIDAY **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11**

SATURDAY **EPHESIANS 5:22-33**

POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

1. Ice Breaker: What are the most precious photos you have and why?

2. Read Genesis 15:12-18, 17:3-7 and Ezekiel 37:26-28. What do they reveal about Covenant?

3. In what ways is making a Covenant different than a Commitment? What would those who are irreligious say they are doing in getting married? What would Christians say they are doing in getting married?

4. What does the union of husband and wife as one flesh mean?

5. Our hyper-sexualized age is motivated by self gratification. Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-5. How does it make for a satisfying and selfless sex life?

6. The theme of God's faithfulness to His wayward (and even adulterous) wife is a recurring one in the Bible (Ezekiel 16; Hosea 1-3). The love and marital faithfulness of God is seen in it's fullest extent in Christ (5:32). Marriage exists to show the world the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church. How does this affirm or change how you see your marriage?

7. Discuss what stood out to you and/or challenged you most as we looked into God's design for the meaning of marriage?

