

“The Origin, Meaning, and Fulfillment of Marriage”
Bible Stories, Pt. 3: Genesis 2:22-25

I. Marriage as Originally Given at Creation

- A. The *priority* of marriage was established at creation.

Matthew 19:4–5 - ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

- B. The *roles* of marriage were established at creation.

1 Peter 3:1 - Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands

1 Corinthians 11:9 - Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.

Titus 2:3–5 - ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1 Timothy 5:14 - So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

- C. The *meaning* of marriage was established at creation.

Ephesians 5:31–32 - ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

II. Marriage as Fulfilled by Christ’s Union with the Church

- A. Christ’s present union with the Church has already begun to fulfill the true meaning of marriage.
- B. The symbolism of marriage will one day be fulfilled entirely, and marriage itself will pass away.

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

- C. This relativizes the importance of marriage by reminding us that it was never intended to be permanent.

- D. Thus, marriage is not necessary to make one a complete human being or a complete Christian.
 - 1. Jesus and Paul were unmarried.
 - 2. At times it's better for Christians to remain single (1 Cor. 7).
- E. Single believers still fulfill the ultimate meaning of marriage by serving Christ and His Bride.
 - 1. By contributing to Christ's mission as fulfilled by the Church
 - 2. By multiplying His influence in the world.
- F. Our ultimate and final family is found in the people of God as a whole.

Mark 10:29–30 - ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.