

Hard Questions, Honest Answers: What's the purpose of marriage? Genesis 2:18–25; Ephesians 5:31–32_Douglas Humphrey

Today, we begin our new sermon series: *Hard Questions, Honest Answers*.

And let me be clear—this isn't a feel-good series.

This is a *wake-up call*.

Each week, we're diving headfirst into cultural issues that are not only shaping your daily life—but also threatening your personal freedoms, eroding religious liberty, and tearing apart the moral fabric of our nation.

If we keep heading in the direction we're going, we won't just *resemble* Sodom and Gomorrah...

we'll make them look tame.

And in some ways we already have.

And just so we're clear—**this isn't a “at least I'm not doing as bad as them” sermon series.**

This isn't your permission slip to compare yourself to the culture so you can feel better about your compromise.

This is a call to holiness. To truth. To repentance.

So where do we begin?

We begin with **marriage**—because the enemy knows: if you can destroy marriage, you can dismantle everything else.

And I'm not talking about what you see on social media—the engagement posts, destination weddings, and cute reels with matching outfits.

I'm talking about real, covenant, God-designed marriage.

The kind that *lasts*. The kind that *costs*. The kind that *reflects Jesus-both to your spouse and the world*.

Here's how twisted our culture is:

Earlier this year, a well known celebrity got married on a Saturday and filed for divorce before Friday.

Five days.

The internet turned it into a joke. A meme.

People laughed about it like it was a bad DoorDash order.

No big deal, just cancel the contract and move on.

That's where we are now.

Marriage has become a punchline.

Something you try out—not something you sacrifice your life to.

We've forgotten what holy matrimony is supposed to be.

We treat marriage like it's a vibe, not a vow.

Like it's a cell phone contract you can cancel instead of a life long covenant.

We say "for better or worse"—but really mean "for as long as I feel like it."

And let's not act like it's just the world.

Christians are struggling, too.

The divorce rate inside the Church isn't much different than outside.

And even when people stay together, many marriages are stuck in survival mode—going through the motions, roommates with rings.

And I know... some of you walked in here today, and your marriage feels numb.

You're sharing space, but not connection.

You're raising kids, paying bills, and keeping up the appearance—but the joy is gone. The intimacy has evaporated.

You've lost your way, and deep down... you're wondering if it's even worth saving.

Others of you are single or dating, and you're not sure if marriage is still something to aim for.

You've watched too many relationships end in failure, maybe even your own.

And you're asking:

Is marriage even worth it anymore?

Does God still care about this?

The answer is yes.

Yes—God cares.

Yes—marriage still matters.

And yes—His design is still *good*.

But you're not going to discover that by scrolling TikTok, engaging in "casual hookups" following relationship "experts," or listening to bitter people who've never had a healthy marriage themselves.

Marriage is about God.

It's His design. His glory. His plan.

And when we lose that—we don't just lose marriages.

We lose our witness.

So today we're asking the real question:

What's the purpose of marriage?

Not what does the world say.

Not what do you feel.

But what does **God's Word** say?

Straight from God's Word, we're going to discover five purposes for marriage. And so if you need a Bible or sermon notes raise your hand so that we can get those to you. Please join me in Genesis... the first book of the Bible. >>>>>

Five purposes for marriage... beginning with... to...

1. Meet our deep need for companionship. ([Gen 2:18](#))

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone...."

That's a strong statement.

Until this moment, God looked at everything He made and said, "It is good." But now, for the first time, He says, "It is not good"—because Adam was alone.

Think about that: Adam had a perfect world, meaningful work, a direct relationship with God—yet something was missing. God designed us with a need for companionship. That longing to be known, seen, and loved isn't weakness—it's part of God's design.

Now, let's be clear—**singleness isn't a curse**. Some are called to it, like Paul. Others walk through it for a season. But whether it's a calling or a chapter, **you are not less-than**.

God sees you. He's with you. And He provides companionship through the body of Christ—a spiritual family where no one walks alone.

But in marriage, God has created something unique: **covenant companionship**.

Covenant companionship means this isn't just a casual relationship or a legal agreement—it's a sacred bond.

A covenant is a promise made before God, sealed by commitment, and sustained by grace.

Marriage is more than sharing a home or raising kids. It's about sharing life—spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

And some of you know what it's like to be married but still feel alone.

You share a bed but not your heart. You manage the house but don't connect.

If that's where you are—don't settle for just coexisting.

God didn't give you a spouse to share space.

He gave you a spouse to share life.

Marriage Satisfies Our Need for Companionship.

That's our first purpose... the second purpose of marriage is to...

2. Share life as equal partners. v18

... The Lord God said..." *I will make a helper corresponding to him.*"

As used here the word helper is vitally important.

In our culture, "helper" can sound like an assistant... someone who brings snacks, stays quiet, and

stays out of the way.

But that's not how God uses the word.

The Hebrew word here is “**ezer.**”

It's the same word used to describe **God Himself**—as Israel's strong support and rescuer.

It means **essential ally**. Strong companion. Indispensable aid.

So when God says, “I'll make a helper corresponding to him,”

He's not saying, “I'll give Adam someone to do his laundry.”

He's saying, “I'm giving him a strong, equal partner to walk side-by-side with him in the mission I've assigned.”

Husbands—let's talk.

You need help.

That's not a flaw—it's how God wired you.

You were never meant to carry life, leadership, parenting, or even faith alone.

And if you're out here trying to be Superman at home—handling it all, carrying the load, calling all the shots—you're probably **frustrated, tired, and silently drowning**.

In the wise words of that great psychologist Bob Newhart... “**STOP IT.**”

So stop trying to be superman!

You can't carry the full weight of life, leadership, and fatherhood on your own.

You need the wisdom, strength, perspective, and presence of your wife.

IOW you need a ladies touch.

That's not weakness. That's completeness.

Stop saying, “I've got this,” and start saying, “We've got this,” or better yet, “honey I need your help”.

Wives let me affirm you...God didn't create you to be a side-chick to everything you husband prefers over you.

You're not a background character. You're not “just anybody.”

You are **his essential partner**—created by God to walk beside your husband as his equal in value and worth.

Not behind. Not beneath.

God didn't call you to compete with him—but to help him fulfill every God-given responsibility he carries.

Wives bring strength, clarity, encouragement, and insight into the marriage.

You are vital.

You are valuable. You're a gift to be treasured above all.

You need to hear that... you need to know that...

Unfortunately, some of you have been made to believe a lie. The lie that says not only do you have to be ever woman, but that you can be everyone woman... you don't need your husband.

Here's the problem with that mindset, you're trying to be everything, do everything, fix everything... while your husband is emotionally MIA.²

You're doing too much while he's doing too little.

Or maybe—it's the other way around.

That's not how God designed marriage to work.

God gave you to each other to **share the weight of life**—not carry it alone.

You can't thrive when you're walking in opposite directions.

You weren't built to go solo.

Marriage is a partnership.

It's not just about *feeling* like a couple—it's about *functioning* like one.

Two people—shouldering life together. Growing together.

So let me challenge both of you:

👉 **Start acting like teammates—not opponents.**

Have her back. Have his back. Work together.

Partnership means shared burdens, shared wins, a shared purpose, and shared victories.

Share life as equal partners... that's no.2... our third purpose for marriage is to...

3. Cultivate a lasting life-giving Relationship.

In v.20-23 Adam finished a hard days work of naming animals. But as the animals passed by two-by-two, the text makes a painfully obvious observation. "**For Adam there was not helper found that corresponded to him**". There was no gender opposite with which he could enjoy and be fruitful and multiply with.

God knew what Adam lacked and he had a plan to provide for it.

He needed **someone**.

Someone who would correspond to him.

Someone who wouldn't just help with the task—but would connect with his soul.

So God puts Adam to sleep.

And out of his side, God **builds** (not just makes) the woman.

And when Adam opens his eyes and sees her for the first time, he says...

"This one, at last..."

"Finally! Here's someone like me. Here's someone for me."

That's not just attraction. That's **relationship**.

That's the fulfillment of a longing that goes deeper than touch.

It's the joy of finally having someone to be known by on the deepest most intimate level imaginable.

Quick side note—and we'll get into this more when we talk about sexual purity and homosexuality:

I'm inspired by the fact that Adam had enough sense to say, *"These animals aren't for me."*

And when God gave him Eve, he *covenanted* with her—for life.

That tells us something important:

We have no business dating, sleeping with, or entertaining anyone or anything that isn't our God-given, corresponding opposite spouse.

In other words—

Don't pervert the marriage bed with flings, flirting, filth, devices, or deviant sexual acts.

You know exactly what I mean.

God has someone for you.

Don't fill your need for relationship with cheap, short-lived thrills that leave you feeling dirty and used.

God's got you covered—just like He covered Adam. He doesn't need your help. Just trust Him.

When Adam said "**This one, at last**" it wasn't a call to casually hookup.

No.

A connection had been made.

A relation had been formed.

And here's what makes having a covenant marriage different from all others.

Companionship is about presence—having someone to hang out with, talk to, spend time with.

Partnership is about purpose—working together toward goals, building a life, making plans.

But **relationship—real, godly relationship—is deeper.**

It's a soul-level connection.

It's emotional.

It's spiritual.

It's covenantal.

And it can only exist within Biblical marriage.

Marriage isn't just about having someone in the room—it's about being fully connected to someone's heart.

You see, you can have companionship and still be lonely.

You can split bills, take vacations, raise kids—and still feel empty inside.

Because **real relationship doesn't come from proximity—it comes from cultivating a life-giving connection.**

It's the giving and re-giving of yourselves to each other—over and over—through every season of marriage.

It's falling in love again and again as life changes, as you grow, as you struggle, as you mature.

It's choosing—daily—to say, *"This one, at last, is mine. And I am theirs."*

Not just on your wedding day—but every day after.

It's seeing your spouse not as a burden—but as God's gift.

That's not just a mindset—it's a way of life.

And that kind of love doesn't happen by accident.

It's given to us by God—but we have to cultivate it.

Sadly, and please listen up singles and those of you who are dating.

This is exactly how some people get **stuck in dating relationships that feel like marriage without the covenant.**

They give their hearts

They give give their bodies.

They give their time, energy, money, and their families -

to someone who hasn't made a covenant with them before God.

Such a couple is doing everything as if their married... but they're not.

like little kids in preschool, they're merely playing house... not building a home.

And as time ticks by—it drains you.

Emotionally. Spiritually. & Physically.

You start to feel tired, spiritually conflicted, and lost.

And then the questions creep in:

What's wrong with me?

Why won't they commit?

What's wrong with them, can't they recognize a good thing?

And you maybe wondering how does pastor know this... well it's b/c I'm speaking from experience.

When you allow the desire to be with someone over power God's design, you'll find yourself in a dangerous and confusing space.

Dangerous b/c you're using God's gifts in a perverted way.

You were never meant to give covenant-level intimacy without covenant-level commitment.

(repeat)

Don't give marriage-level access to someone who hasn't made a marriage-level promise.

That kind of vulnerability can only exist inside the covenant of marriage—where two people stand before God and say, *"I'm all in. No matter what."*

Until death do we part... I'm only with you.

So if that's where you are, **it's time to stop asking, "How can I make them want me?"**

And start asking, "Why am I giving so much to someone who hasn't committed to love me God's way?"

You're worthy of so much more, b/c God says you are.

Coming full circle:

Real relationship doesn't come from proximity—it comes from cultivating a life-giving connection.

God didn't design marriage to be two people living side by side.

He designed it to be two souls knit together in covenant.

To be known, pursued, and united on the deepest possible level.

So don't settle for coexisting. Cultivate connection.

Talk. Pray. Listen to each other. Show up. Prioritize each other. Pursue each other.

Because real relationship isn't automatic—it's built.

And when it's built on God's design, **it doesn't just survive—it thrives.**

In your marriage, cultivate a lasting life-giving Relationship.

That's our 3rd purpose for marriage... 4th... marriage

4. Satisfy our God-given desire for Intimacy. v.24-25

"This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame."

Let's dwell on that: **"They became one flesh."**

That's not just about sex or sharing a home.

It's a whole-life union—**body, mind, and spirit.**

Two people joined so deeply—physically, emotionally, spiritually—that they move as one.

That's God's blueprint for intimacy.

It says... **"They were naked and felt no shame."**

That's full exposure—nothing hidden, nothing feared.

They're enjoying an intimate life together.

And that kind of vulnerability only thrives **within the safety of covenant.**

Here's what you need to understand:

Intimacy isn't just physical—it's a soul connection.

And that's where true intimacy is formed—through two interconnected souls who keep God as their focal point.

Sex, when practiced within marriage, is the glue that strengthens that bond.

But too many try to reverse it—thinking sex will create intimacy.

It doesn't.

You can have sexual relations with someone and not experience intimacy, b/c you don't haven't connected w/ their mind and spirit. Like the old song says, *"Your body's here with me, but your mind is on the other side of town... you're messing me around"* Sex doesn't equal intimacy—any more than sitting in church makes you a Christian.

That's why when you try to fulfill your desire for intimacy outside of God's design it ultimately hurts you.

Here are 5-consequences for attempting to manufacture your own intimacy.

1. **Creates false intimacy:** You *feel* close—but it's only surface-level. You think she loves you... you think he's into you...
but what you're really experiencing isn't love—it's lust.
There's no real connection. Just sex.
And when the pleasure fades, so does the relationship.

2. **Makes your spouse feel less than:** When you step outside your marriage for intimacy—or bring things in like pornography or perverse sexual acts—**you don't just break trust, you break connection.**

Over time, shame, guilt, and inadequacy will creep into the relationship, and the emotional distance will grow.

What was meant to be a safe place of joy and ipassion will become a battleground of insecurity and silence.

3. **Clouds your judgment.**

[Romans 1:21–22](#) tells us that those who dishonor God become fools.

When you ignore God's boundaries, your ability to see clearly starts breaking down. And you'll find yourself in situations that you have no business being in, but you'll be oblivious to it b/c lust and infatuation is clouding your mind.

4. **Hardens your heart.**

[Hebrews 3:13](#) warns us that sin is deceitful—it slowly numbs us until we can't feel conviction like we used to.

5. **Invokes God's discipline.**

[1 Thessalonians 4:6](#) says, *"The Lord is an avenger of all these offenses."*

[Hebrews 13:4](#) adds, *"God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers."*

God sees everything that we do in the dark, and he punishes those who do.

You want to experience Adam & Eve level intimacy and glorify God; then look for and pursue ways to "become one flesh".

Intimacy is built—day by day—through love notes, honest conversations, shared tears, laughter, going through hard spots together, prayer, Growing through God's Word together and choosing each other over and over again.

It's built by serving one another. By opening your heart. By being fully known—emotionally, mentally, and spiritually—without fear.

And just like a momma bear protects her cubs, you've got to fiercely guard your intimacy.

Fight for it.

Protect it from anything trying to wedge itself between you and your spouse— which includes: another person, a glowing screen, a secret habit, unconfessed sin, or even buried shame.

And as you do you will begin to experience soul satisfying intimacy. And if you looking for a practical guide on how to build intimacy in your marriage; then I'd suggest the book, "Red Hot Monogamy" by Bill and Pam Farrel. Sheila and I learned a great deal about sexual intimacy from it.

Through marriage, we get to... Satisfy our God-given desire for Intimacy. That's no4... Our 5th and final purpose for marriage is to...

5. Model Christ's love for His church and our response. ([Ephesians 5:31-32](#))

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Here's what you need to know.

Your marriage is preaching something.

The question is—*what is it preaching?*

Marriage is more than personal—it's theological.

Paul quotes [Genesis 2:24](#), the same text we just looked at —and then he pulls back the curtain and says:

This whole marriage thing? It's bigger than Adam and Eve. It's about Christ and the Church.

In other words, **marriage is a living parable.**

A visible picture of the invisible Gospel.

It's not just about two people trying to make each other happy.

Being fruitful and multiplying.

It's about showing the world how Christ loves His people, and how His people should respond to Him.

Husbands—your love for your wife is a sermon.

When you serve your wife...

When you lead her with humility...

When you forgive her, sacrifice for her, protect her, pray for her, and lay down your preferences for her good—

You are preaching a bold and beautiful message, your'e saying...

"This is what Jesus is like."

Conversely...

When you neglect your wife, ignore her, talk down to her, or treat her like she's a problem to endure...

you're still preaching.

But you're not preaching the true Gospel.

You're preaching a lie about Jesus.

Because how you treat your wife tells the world what you believe about Christ's love. And it tells them what Jesus is like.

Wives—your respect for your husband is a sermon.

When you encourage your husband...

When you honor him, support his leadership, speak life into him, help him think critically, and walk with him even when it's hard—You're declaring to the world:

"This is what love and loyalty to Jesus looks like."

But when there's constant criticism...

When disrespect becomes the norm...

When you shut down or check out—

When you prioritize your kids over him...

That too is preaching.

But it doesn't reflect the Church Jesus died for.

Conclusion

Church—this marriage thing, this gift of holy matrimony, is bigger than your happiness.

God didn't give you marriage just to make you feel loved—

He gave it to you to show His love.

So yes—marriage is a gift.

It satisfies our need for companionship.

It meets our need for partnership.

It brings joy. It fosters intimacy.

But ultimately, marriage is about **displaying the Gospel.**

When people look at your marriage, they should see:

- A Savior who loves without condition.
- A people who respond with trust, honor, and intimacy.

- A bond that's unbreakable.
- A love that forgives, forgets, and restores.

The reality is this:

Your marriage is constantly preaching a sermon both to your spouse, your kids, and the watching world.

You will either honor Jesus in your marriage, or you will shame Him.

There is no neutral ground.

The question is.... What kind of sermon do you want your marriage to preach. And what are you going to do to ensure that Jesus is glorified through your sermon?

And if you've blown it—if your marriage is hanging by a thread, or if you're carrying the pain of one that didn't survive—I want you to know something:

There is grace. And there is hope.

Next week, we're continuing our *Hard Questions, Honest Answers* series by looking at one of the most misunderstood and emotionally charged topics in the Church:

Divorce and Remarriage.

What does the Bible actually say?

What does healing look like after everything falls apart?

So come back next week.

Bring someone with you.

And let's keep asking these hard questions—and learning what God says about them so that our lives can be made better.

Will you pray with me?

Lord, we thank you for the gift of marriage. Other than us with you there is no closer relation what we will ever experience. All of us come from diverse backgrounds and experiences regarding marriage. However, you have set forth a standard for marriage that takes presidents.

Closing:

CC, Foundations, LGLP