

Lesson 21: Marriage



Rejoicing in God's Good Design

Illustration



Marriage Is Designed to Be for Life

Matthew 19:3-10

God's Design: Marriage for Life.

Divorce may be permitted, it is not what God designed.

A married man and a married woman are commanded by God to remain faithful to their covenant vows and obey God's commands.

Good Design = Good Commands

Enter in with Carefulness, Reflection, Counsel, and Prayer

Since marriage is designed to be for life, it should not be entered into without much carefulness, mature reflection, counsel from others, and prayer.

Luke 14:28-30

- Count the cost in building a family
- To enter into marriage hastily is foolish

Building a Godly Marriage

WRONG THINGS



Drawn to looks or personality rather than character

GOOD MARRIAGE



Built a foundation of godly character and commitment.

Seek wisdom and counsel from mature adults—especially parents.

The Book of Common Prayer

“[Marriage] is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisably, lightly, or wantonly, to satisfy men’s carnal lusts and appetites, like brute beasts that have no understanding; but *reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God.*”

Proverbs 18:22

Proverbs 12:4

Proverbs 19:14

James 1:5

Proverbs 15:22

Ephesians 6:1-3

Psalms 37:4

Marriage for Christians

- Only between a man and a woman.
- Christian + Christian → 2 Corinthians 6:14



Young Man: Take the Lead and Initiative in Seeking a Wife

~~PASSIVE~~

He must develop courage and strength and be willing to lay the groundwork for leadership.



Young Man: Seek a Wife at the Right Time

Men should initiate and lead in seeking a wife only at the right time.

- Able to lead
- Able to protect
- Able to provide



Until men are in a position to think of marriage, they should protect the young women around them by refusing to flirt, pursue, or win anyone's heart.

Young Woman: Wait on the Lord and Make Yourself Attractive in Spirit and Character

Until a woman is ready to gladly submit to a husband and the responsibility of family life, she should be careful in responding to the initiative of a man.

She should be wise and cautious, examining his faith and character.



Young Woman: Wait on the Lord and Make Yourself Attractive in Spirit and Character

Guard your heart

- Refuse to flirt
- Do not entice the interests or affections of a man
- Cultivate modesty that points others to Christ
- Cultivate a gentle and quiet spirit



Grow to Be Ready for Marriage

One reason people delay marriage is because they are not mature enough for marriage. They spend their youth playing instead of growing up.

Strive to be different





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