

WORD

⁴He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

MATTHEW 19:4-6

Marriage is God-ordained. It is a covenant union between a husband and wife before God. Though we live in a world that attempts to redefine marriage, we need to see it the way God designed it. In this lesson, we'll look at three necessary elements of marriage based on Matthew 19.

1 Complementary Roles

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female . . ."

MATTHEW 19:4

When God created man and woman, He appointed them with complementary roles that would enable them to fulfill His plans. Each role comes with a unique and specific purpose that man and woman can individually accomplish by the grace of God. This applies to us all, in whatever stage of life. Recall a situation that showed you the different, but complementary, roles of men and women.

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2 Unity

". . . 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'?" **MATTHEW 19:5**

A man and a woman in marriage are called to live in unity with each other. They are to live and operate as one unit. They are first to submit themselves to God, then to each other. In all the decisions they make, they should be one—as God leads them. Knowing this truth, how can we *hold fast* to God and how can we choose to live in unity with God in our personal lives? (Deuteronomy 10:20)

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3 Commitment

"So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." **MATTHEW 19:6**

When a man and a woman are married, they are committed to each other for life. Marriage is not just a contract; it is a "covenant". The marriage covenant keeps the love going, not the other way around. Despite the challenges they face, the husband and wife are to stick together and make a daily decision to work as a team—not against each other—with God at the center of their relationship. How can we practice commitment in our day-to-day lives? (Proverbs 3:3)

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