



## WORD

*<sup>4</sup>He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup>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'? <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

**MATTHEW 19:4-6**

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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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## APPLICATION

- How is God's definition of and design for marriage different from society or culture? How does your understanding of it need to shift based on God's Word?
- Without God, do you think commitment and unity in marriage is possible? How can you depend more on God to make you into the person He has called you to be every day?
- How can you grow in your understanding of your role as a man or woman? What will you do differently, starting this week?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for His design and purpose for marriage, your family, and your life. Pray that you will follow God's ways and Word above anything else.
- Declare God's goodness and faithfulness over your life, and pray that every relationship you have will honor God.
- Pray that your life will be a blessing and an example to many. Ask God to use your life to encourage, challenge, and inspire others.



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