

What's Marriage Got to Do with It?

When Two Become One



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What's Marriage Got to Do with It? When Two Become One

- ▶ Gain a clearer perspective on God's great gift of sexuality
- ▶ Gain greater ownership of your sexuality; leading to a deeper connectedness to God in marriage and in singleness
- ▶ Gain a vision of marriage and sexuality that will inspire you to proactively shape the sexuality of the next generation

From the Beginning

Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:18-24

- 26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- 27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- 28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- 31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

From the Beginning

Genesis 2:18-24

- 18** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." **19** Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.
- 20** The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. **21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
- 22** And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
- 24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Jesus Affirms Marriage

Matthew 19:4-9

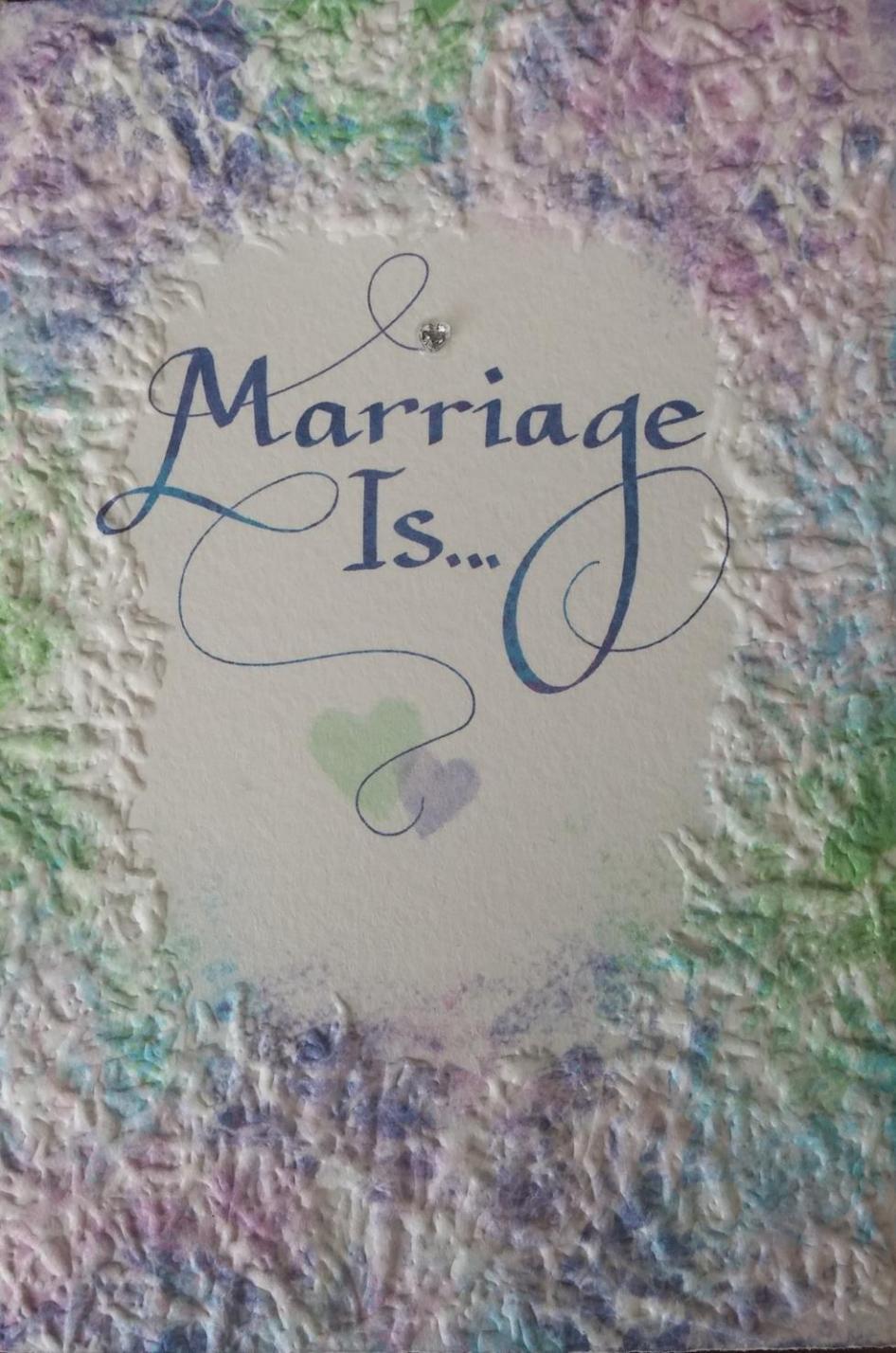
- 4** He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, **5** and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"
- 6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." **7** They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"
- 8** He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Marriage Is...



A lifelong, monogamous relationship between a man and a woman. According to the Bible, God devised marriage to reflect his saving love for us in Christ, to refine our character, to create stable human community for the birth and nurture of children, and to accomplish all this by bringing the complementary sexes into an enduring whole-life union.

~Tim and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*



Marriage
Is...

Marriage Is...

A commitment. Its success doesn't depend on circumstances, feelings, or moods – but on two people who are loyal to each other and the vows they took on their wedding day...



“Children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is
a reward from him.”

Psalms 127:3

Four Primary Reasons for Sexual Intimacy

1. God gives us sex as a one-flesh union that consummates a marriage.
2. God gives us sex for procreation.
3. God gives us sex as a way to express love to our spouse in the covenant relationship of marriage.
4. God gives us sex for enjoyment and pleasure.

Sexual, Single and Saved Now What?

What role does sexuality play in the lives of unmarried Christians? How do they navigate a culture that:

1. assumes they are missing something
2. believes love is fully realized only in "making love"
3. thinks to be celibate is to be sexually unfulfilled and incomplete?

And, what role does the church play in helping them maintain their vow to sexual purity?

Sex and Single Christians

A biblical understanding of single sexuality recognizes singles as sexual beings who are created for relationship and who appropriately long for intimacy. If a key dimension of sexuality is that of drawing us toward others so we experience the life-giving affirmation of being loved and known, then we are sexual whether or not we are having sex. We have significant longings and desires that can be met relationally where there is no sex involved.

The Bride of Christ



Sex in Marriage

- ▶ A part of God's plan for humanity
- ▶ The relationship in which the richest, fullest expression of sex is possible
- ▶ More than a pursuit of physical pleasure
- ▶ Is character-forming



30th Wedding Anniversary



So, When Two Become One, What Does
Marriage Have to Do with It?



Everything!

MARRIAGE IS IT!!!