

From the very beginning, God designed humanity for community and connection. Today, we will be reminded that both spiritual community and marriage are gifts from God, meant to bring us closer to Him and to one another.

God built humanity for community, not isolation (Genesis 2:18a)

1. Isolation leaves us vulnerable.

- *1 Peter 5:8*, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
- *Proverbs 18:1*, "An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels."

2. Christian Community is fulfilled within your family of faith.

3. Christian community makes us all better.

- *Hebrews 10:24-25*, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

4. Christian community is doable because of common ground.

- *Ephesians 2:14*, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility."
- *Romans 8:16*, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
- *Matthew 28:18-20*, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

God invented marriage for His purposes, not ours (Genesis 2:18-25)

1. It was God's design, so He gets to define it (18a).

- *Hebrews 13:4*, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

2. It involves a partnership that complements each other (18b).

- "Spiritual friendship is the deep joy of knowing someone will pray for you, walk with you, and remind you of God's faithfulness." – Charles Spurgeon

3. It may be a calling God reveals for you, or not (19-20).

- *1 Corinthians 7:7*, "I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."
- "Christians who neglect the church are like burning coals removed from the fire—they grow cold."
– D.L. Moody

4. It should be treated like a gift from God (21-22).

- *Proverbs 18:22*, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord."

5. It is a union (physical, emotional, relational, & spiritual) (23).

- *1 Corinthians 6:16-17*, "Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.' But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit."

6. It requires leaving old priorities & prioritizing spouse (24).

7. It flourishes with transparency & trust (25).

8. It intends a lifelong commitment.

- *Matthew 19:4-6*, "'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'"

QUESTIONS?

Today's passage addresses important topics that can be challenging in our culture, including: marriage, singleness, biblical sexuality, & gender. If you'd like to explore these subjects further—whether for yourself or as a parent guiding your children—you can text RESOURCES to (951) 425-4425 for recommended materials.