

Marriage

Marriage - entered into and lived according to the pattern of God's design for this unique human relationship - is a fantastic journey. It is a setting in which God can both bless you and grow your character. A marriage that is deeply satisfying to both the couple and to God does not happen "naturally," it takes a lot of work - something that any couple thinking about marriage should carefully consider.

Here's a summary of our essential beliefs about marriage so you can get a quick sense of where we're coming from.

- God created man and woman in His image and in such a way that they were designed for relationship with each other. This design plays out both in marriage and in men and women serving Christ together as part of His body, the Church.
- Marriage is the creation of a new family unit by the man and woman separating from their parents and forming a new bond with each other.
- God's definition of marriage is a "one time, for a lifetime" covenant between one man and one woman as created by God and legally recognized by the governing authorities.
- Marriage between one man and one woman, as created by God, is the only setting God recognizes for sexual intimacy.
- Christian marriage is meant to be a shining symbol to the world of the sacrificial love Christ has for His people.
- God takes such a high view of marriage that He is not pleased when we end it prematurely. God sees divorce as an act of violence; however, in specific circumstances the Bible teaches us that He does permit it (for more details, see our parallel page on Divorce found in this same section of the website).