



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The First Marriage and Your Marriage

Genesis 2:18–25

THE BIG IDEA

Marriage was designed before sin ever entered the world to glorify God through relationship, covenant, and oneness — which means it is good for you, wherever you find yourself in it today.

SERMON SUMMARY

Before sin entered the world, God looked at Adam and for the first time declared something “not good”: it was not good for Adam to be alone. So God formed Eve as a helper suited to him, brought her to Adam, and instituted marriage as a covenant relationship. From the very beginning, marriage glorifies God in at least four ways: through complementary relational roles, through covenant commitment, through the mystery of becoming one flesh, and through its picture of the gospel itself.

These four realities are meant to shape how you actually live. If you’re single this passage gives you a biblical understanding of marriage and what to look for. If your marriage is thriving, it’s an encouragement to keep going. If your marriage is struggling right now, this text offers a reason to hang in there rather than walk away, because what God designed in the garden was never meant to be undone by difficulty.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. God says in verse 18 that it is “not good” for the man to be alone. What does this tell you about how deeply relational design is woven into being made in God’s image?
2. Adam’s naming of Eve and the created order point to a complementary structure of roles within marriage — different roles, but equal value. Where does this idea feel countercultural to you, and where do you see it lived out well or poorly in marriages you know?
3. Genesis 2:24 describes marriage as a covenant of leaving and holding fast, not merely an emotional arrangement. How does viewing your own marriage — or future marriage — as a binding covenant rather than a conditional contract change the way you’d approach a hard season?
4. The text describes husband and wife becoming “one flesh.” How do passages like 1 Corinthians 6:16–18 and Malachi 2:15 deepen your understanding of why sexual intimacy carries spiritual weight within marriage, not just physical or emotional weight?
5. Ephesians 5 teaches that marriage is meant to be a living picture of the gospel — Christ’s sacrificial love and the church’s response. In what specific way could your marriage, or your pursuit of marriage, more clearly reflect that gospel picture this season?

LIVING IT OUT

Wherever you are this morning — single, hoping to marry, walking faithfully alongside a spouse, or wondering if your marriage can survive a hard season — this passage has something for you. Marriage was never meant to be easy, but it was always meant to be good, because it glorifies the God who designed it.

Heart Check: Are you viewing marriage — your own, or the one you hope for — through the lens of culture’s conditional contract, or through the lens of God’s binding covenant? What would change if you fully embraced the latter?

This Week: If you’re married, identify one specific way you can serve or encourage your spouse this week that reflects sacrificial, covenant love rather than convenience. If you’re not married, identify one biblical quality from this passage you want to grow in or look for in a future spouse.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

— **Genesis 2:24**

Thank God for designing marriage as a reflection of his own covenant faithfulness, and ask him for the strength to honor that design in your own life and relationships, whatever season you’re in.

Your Prayer:

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