

## Biblical Marriage: Total Recall Required

*How have we allowed something so good to become so broken?*

*Are you at all upset by the re-definition of marriage?*

*What is the God-centred worldview on marriage?*

1. Marriage is designed to provide companionship .

“It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen 2:18).

- Correspondingly opposite “suitable helper” (2:18)
- Interdependent “flesh of my flesh” (2:23)
- Officially committed to the complement “leave and become one flesh” (2:24)

Enter sin – Gen 3:16 desire to dominate  
respond with harshness

2. Marriage is designed to promote the witness of God (Isa 43:10-12; Acts 1:8).

“You are my witness,” declares the LORD.

• Only to another witness (Gen 6:1-7; Ex 34:16; 1 Kgs 11:2-4; Ezra 9:1-2; Neh 10:30; 1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14)

- A covenant not a contract (Mal 2:14; Matt 19:6; 1 Cor 7:10-11)

“What God has joined together, let man not separate” (Jesus).

- Woman, say yes!

“Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord...as the church submits to Christ” (Eph 5:22, 24).

- Man, love to death!

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Eph 5:25).

...for we are all members of his body (Eph 5:30)

It’s about the church! (Eph 5:32)

3. Marriage is designed to protect God’s people from sin (1 Cor 7:1-5)

“But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman have her own husband” (7:2).

“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband” (7:3).

“The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife” (7:4).

“Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time so that you may

devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (7:5).

*Give yourself away so potential sin goes away.*

*A husband and a wife are each other’s protection from sexual immorality.*

4. Marriage is designed to produce godly offspring (Mal 2:13-16).

“And why one? Because he is seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth” (2:15).

Why retool your marriage—why respond to God’s total recall on your brand, your definition?

If you alienate each other, you alienate yourselves from God.

Another thing you do: You flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, “Why?” It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant (Mal 2:13,14).

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers (1 Pet 3:7).

*What definition of marriage are you displaying to the world around you?*