

## COUNTER CULTURAL

Marriage by Covenant - Genesis 2:18-24  
October 29, 2017

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**

### I. GOD MADE MARRIAGE

- Marriage is by design. God created human beings male and female and told them to “be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:27-28; Matt. 19:4).
- God saw that there was not a suitable helper for Adam, so he created one specifically for that purpose (Gen. 2:20).
- God gave away the first bride (Gen. 2:22).
- God spoke the covenant of marriage into existence (Matt. 19:3-6).

### II. GOD HONORS MARRIAGE

- Jesus took a conservative view on marriage (Matt. 19:7-12).
- God recognized the covenant of marriage and guards it (Mal. 2:10-16; 1 Pet. 3:7).
  1. God was a witness to the covenant (Mal. 2:14).
  2. God made spouses one as a result of the marriage covenant (Mal. 2:15).
  3. Godly marriages display the glory of God (Isa. 54:5-8; Eph. 5:31-32).

### III. GOD CALLS US TO BE COUNTER CULTURAL CONCERNING MARRIAGE

- We are called to live as “one-flesh” (Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).
- We are called to be faithful (Mal. 2:16).
- We are called to stay together (Matt. 19:6).
- We are called to love and respect (Eph. 5:33).
- We are called to marital fidelity (Heb. 13:4).
- We are called to produce “godly offspring” (Mal. 2:15).
- We are called to guard ourselves (Mal. 2:15; 1 Cor. 6:18).
- We are called to receive this teaching if possible (Matt. 19:12).

**KNOW:** Marriage is sacred to God, and divorce, when sought for unjust cause, is doing violence to a covenant established by God. Our culture minimizes — first divorce, and now, by necessity — marriage as well. Christians are called to stand against this ungodly trend.

**DO:** Honor the sacredness of marriage.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller (LifePoint Library #646 KEL)  
*This Momentary Marriage* by John Piper

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read **Genesis 2:18-24 & Malachi 2:13-16.**

1. What causes God to create woman in the Genesis account?
2. Moses says in the Genesis account that “for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother...” What reason?
3. Why is God angry with the people of Israel in the text from Malachi?
4. Read Genesis 2:24-25 and then Matthew 19:1-9. How does Jesus explain the text from Genesis 2 that the Pharisees have gotten so wrong?
5. Overall, what impression do you come away with in Scripture concerning Jesus’ thoughts on marriage?
6. In general, does our culture hold similar views on marriage? How shall we as Christians respond?
7. What stood out to you most in the message Sunday?