



The Heart of Marriage
Pastor Wil Lake 11.09.2025

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 Thessalonians 4:3–8] (NIV)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

[Matthew 19:8]

Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended.

HARD = GR. "skleros"... ENG = "sclerosis"
HEART = GR. "kardian"... ENG = "cardiac".

Marriage was the first formal relational institution God created. God himself officiated the first wedding ceremony. It is the foundation of any human society. A man and woman come together in marriage to glorify God, to be united in spirit, soul and body, to produce children and to help steward the world.

[Genesis 1:28] (NIV)

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

[Genesis 2:18 & 20–24] (NIV)

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Biblical View of Marriage:

1. Godly marriage is a spiritual covenant between a husband and wife, not an earthly civil contract.

[Genesis 2:23]

The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

2. Godly marriage is a joining of two people in a spiritual partnership of unity.

[Genesis 2:24] (NIV)

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

3. Marriage is companionship, intimacy and family creation.

[Genesis 1:28] (NIV)

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

[Ephesians 5:31-32] (NIV)

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

Key Points:

- 1. Godly marriage is a spiritual covenant between a husband and wife, not an earthly civil contract.***
- 2. Godly marriage is a joining of two people in a spiritual partnership of unity.***
- 3. Godly marriage is companionship, intimacy and family creation.***

Applications for the Week:

What selfish desires or preferences might you need to sacrifice to build greater unity in your marriage and relationships? How can you practice mutual sacrifice in those relationships this week?

Discussion Questions:

- 1.** What is God's vision of marriage? How and why has culture made marriage and relationships something that you can just quit if you aren't happy?
- 2.** Pastor Wil mentioned that marriage is a God thing and not a you thing. Why was this an important point in our view about marriage and relationships?
- 3.** What does *1 Thessalonians 4:3–8* teach us that we need to be in control of in our life? How does this help us to understand God's design for our marriage?
- 4.** In what ways is secular culture creeping into Christian culture regarding marriage?
- 5.** What areas of hardness or unforgiveness are in your heart that need God's healing? What steps can you take this week to soften your heart towards your spouse and relationships?