



## Church Connection February 2021

### Celebrating God's Plan for Marriage

*Strengthening,  
Preserving  
& Promoting  
Marriage,  
Family, Life  
& Religious  
Freedom*

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Ponder the truth of this passage as it relates to husbands and wives:

*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers, And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians. 4:29, 31, 32*

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**Mark Your Calendar!**  
**National Marriage Week USA, Feb. 7-14.**

Do you celebrate God's plan for marriage? Does your family? Does your church? We hope the answer to all three of those questions is a resounding, enthusiastic, "Yes!" because every marriage that reflects God's design of one man and one woman should be celebrated. God's plan for marriage is universally good and well worth celebrating.

Because there is so much biblical illiteracy both outside and sadly even within our churches, let's rehearse briefly what God says about marriage. In Genesis, the book of beginnings, we are told: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." (Gen. 1:27-28).

Then in Genesis 2:24 God gives more details about the creation of woman in particular where we also have the first use of the word *wife*: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Clearly God created marriage when He created Adam and then commented on the need for Adam to have a helper exactly suited to him.

In Matthew 19:4-5, Jesus reiterates the truths of a binary creation and of one-man and one-woman marriage: "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"



## Pray

Continue to pray regularly for our country and our elected officials. The need for spiritual, relational and physical healing is more evident than ever.

## Note

February 7th - 14th is National Marriage Week. It's a great time for families and churches to rehearse God's teaching on marriage and to champion this divinely ordained institution that is good for all people, at all times, in all places.

Some suggestions:

1. Celebrate marriage by recognizing all married couples and have a special prayer for them.
2. Talk about the benefits of marriage. Visit [www.wifamilycouncil.org](http://www.wifamilycouncil.org), resources, marriage; or, [nationalmarriageweekusa.org](http://nationalmarriageweekusa.org) for documented statistical information.
3. Read a good book. Here are two recommended resources for strengthening marriages:

*The Marriage Challenge: A Finance Guide for Married Couples*, Art Rainer, (2018). Since finances are often a major stressor in relationships, this is an important and practical book with biblical advice.

*The Marriage Knot: 7 Choices That Keep Couples Together*, Ron & Jody Zapfia (2019), has great biblical advice for strengthening and preserving a marriage.

One of the most important biblical teachings on marriage is the New Testament analogy of Christ being the Bridegroom and His Church being the bride, a holy union to be sure, and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, where of course the Lamb is the Bridegroom Christ. Human marriage is an earthly picture of this spiritual marriage, and both are God's plan and design. God will not allow His divine plan to be sullied and blasphemed without ultimate judgment. God's Word allows for no deviation from one man and one woman uniting in a monogamous, lifelong relationship. Any other relationship configuration called "marriage" is wrong and outside of God's plan and blessing.

Importantly, God's institution of marriage, designed for mankind's good and God's glory, comes with unparalleled blessings. God in His unfathomable goodness, allows the blessings of marriage to extend to those who do not believe in Him and even to those who blaspheme Him. That's God's common grace.

The blessings of marriage include, typically, natural procreation—the bringing of new life into this world through the unique contributions of both the male husband and female wife. Children born to or adopted by men and women in a God-designed marriage are, on average, better off in every way than children in any other kind of family structure. They are more likely to avoid poverty, poor health, abuse of all sorts, educational difficulties, crime, substance addictions, and more.

Men and women in one-man, one-woman marriages also typically enjoy great benefits, such as better health (especially for men), higher income (even when only one spouse is working), more savings, avoidance of poverty (in particular for women), and more.

All of these benefits have been verified by social science research not just in the United States but around the world. And we should not be surprised by that. God's plan for marriage and family works. Deviating from that plan is when the problems begin, continue and expand. When individual God-designed marriages are numerous, strong and healthy, all of society benefits. Let's do all we can to strengthen, promote and celebrate God's plan for marriage!

## About Wisconsin Family Council

*Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom in our state.*

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