



?

**WHOSE
MARRIAGE
HAVE YOU
ALWAYS
ADMIRERD?**

The **POINT** >

Physical intimacy is reserved for one man and woman within the covenant of marriage.

> **EXODUS 20:14**

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

> **2 SAMUEL 11:1-5**

¹In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And

David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Due to busyness, the average married couple in the US spends only four minutes alone each day.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

God's plan for the family involves one man and one woman, who have different but complementary roles, committing to one another in a lifelong covenant relationship as a reflection of God's love for His people.

Weddings these days come in all sizes and shapes. For many, a wedding is a quiet, simple ceremony, while others spare no expense to create an experience their friends and family will remember forever. Regardless of the trappings, weddings share one thing in common: union. Two additional words can be used to describe a solid marriage.

1. Discontinuity. When a man and woman get married, they break the ties with those who constituted their dominant family prior to the wedding.

2. Continuity. The couple continues a magnificent institution called family. It's not the same as the one they are disconnecting from, but it continues the same principle of family.

God calls this union a covenant. Because the nature of a covenant is spiritually binding, honoring the marriage relationship is especially important. Unfortunately, our world and culture has been playing fast and loose with this covenant, and people are trying to redefine what a marriage is and what that commitment entails. God made His standard clear in the Ten Commandments. Obedience to God's commandment carries God's blessing, but as we see in the life of David, failing to honor God's standard of marriage brings devastating consequences.

EXODUS 20:14

1 How would you summarize our culture's view of adultery?

2 What are the consequences for a society not following God's standards for sexual purity and faithfulness in marriage?



The same level of purity and faithfulness we show in our relationship with Christ is to be seen in our relationship with our spouse.
#GodsHeartBSFL

2 SAMUEL 11:1-3a

3 What can we learn from David's failure in this passage?

4 As Christians, how should we deal with the temptation to sin?

5 What are some practical ways we can follow God's command to be faithful and pure?

2 SAMUEL 11:3b-5

6 How do you respond to the belief that physical intimacy is reserved for one man and one woman in the context of marriage?

7 How can we make sure we view marriage and physical intimacy in ways that honor God?

8 What steps can you take to prevent falling into the trap of sexual sin?



LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // FAMILY

God's plan for the family involves one man and one woman, who have different but complementary roles, committing to one another in a lifelong covenant relationship as a reflection of God's love for His people.

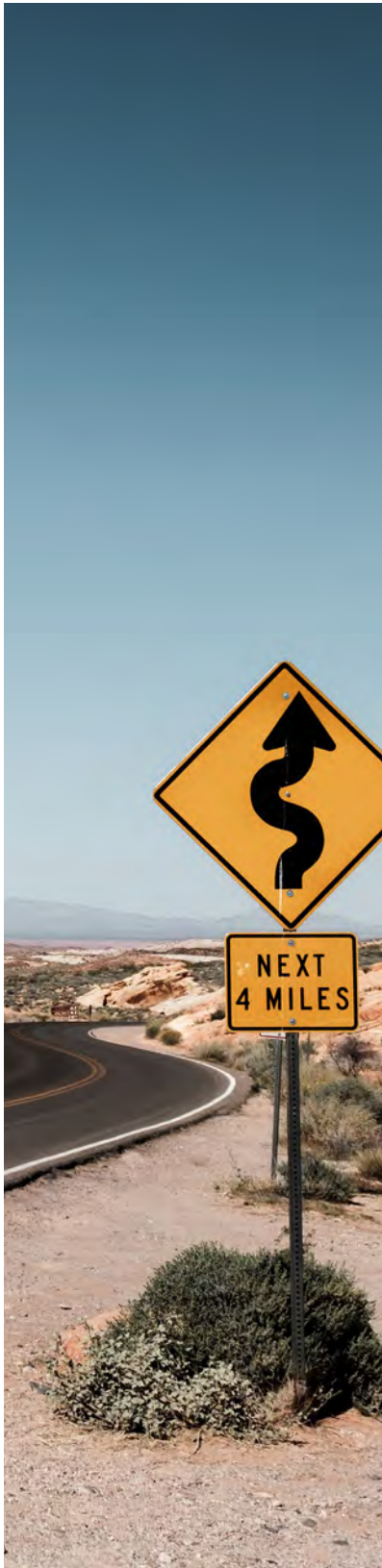
Our world has stripped the dignity and value from physical intimacy, which God created to be enjoyed within the context of marriage. Instead, the world sees physical intimacy as purely recreational. They don't realize that to live this way is to degrade oneself and miss out on the blessings that God desires for us. When a husband and wife live out their marriage as God designed, it's one of the most powerful images of Jesus' love for His church.

> CHRIST

Through the seventh command, we are called to be faithful to our promises because we serve a God who is faithful. He calls us to be faithful to Him and others in the ways we view marriage and physical intimacy.

9 How do you struggle to live up to a biblical standard in terms of romantic relationships or desires?

10 How will you commit to being more faithfully devoted to Jesus?



> COMMUNITY

Those who are children of God are our family. However, we often fail to treat members of the opposite sex as brothers and sisters.

11 How is God calling you to change the ways you relate to members of the opposite sex?

12 How, this week, will you carry out these things?

> CULTURE

The world certainly doesn't live by God's standards for love, sex, and marriage. We see this all around in music, movies, and other forms of entertainment, as well as in the lives of non-Christians we know.

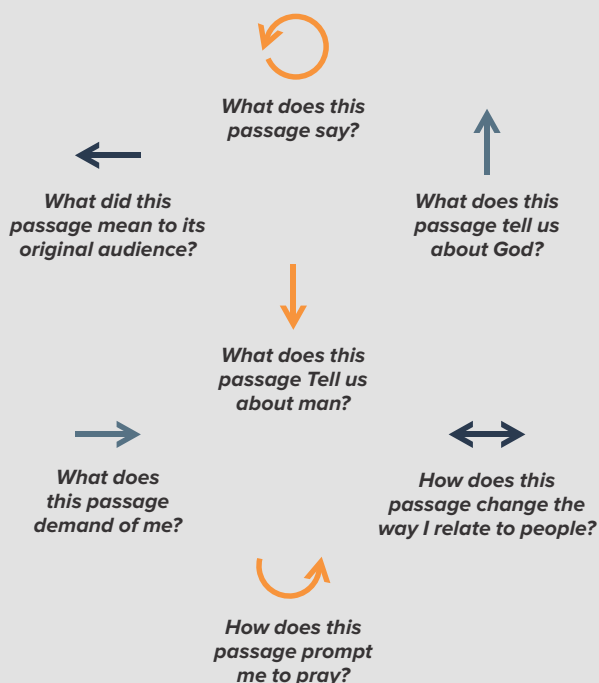
13 How do you expose yourself to the world's ways in terms of love and sexuality? How will you commit to changing?

14 How can you honor the seventh commandment as a testimony to your lost friends?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One

EPHESIANS 5:22-24

When Paul wrote to the Ephesian church, he first addressed the wives. He said that wives are to live in submission to their husbands “as to the Lord.” This language isn’t comfortable for a lot of people. Nonetheless, it is what the Bible teaches, and we need to understand that not only does God have a purpose for everything He’s spoken through His Word, but further, that it all serves for our good and His glory. The reason wives are called to submit to their husbands is that it serves as a powerful illustration of the church’s submission to Christ. In a world where people are naturally prideful, a humble wife who honors her husband stands out powerfully against the norm. And when she shares the reason she lives this way—because she desires to reflect Christ to others in her life—God will use her testimony to reveal Himself to the world.

- **Why is the idea of submission so difficult for many to accept?**
- **How does a wife’s submission reflect the church’s relationship to Jesus?**

Day Two

EPHESIANS 5:25



As difficult as submission may be for some wives, listen to what Paul said to the husbands—“love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.” Every husband today would say he loves his wife. In fact, as a part of the marriage ceremony, he pledges his undying love for her. However, I don’t think I’ve ever met a husband who would boldly claim that he loves his wife in all the ways Jesus loved the church. Let’s think of the ways Jesus showed His love. Jesus devoted His time to teaching, healing, and providing for needs, often to the point of being totally exhausted. Jesus served His disciples continually, and even though He was the teacher, He demonstrated His humility through washing their feet. Ultimately, Jesus showed His love by giving His life on the cross, enduring the punishment for the sins of His people. Though no husband has ever loved his bride as much as Jesus loved His people, every husband is called to this.

- **How would you describe Jesus’ love for the church?**
- **How do husbands show this kind of love for their wives?**

Day Three

EPHESIANS 5:26-27

The reason that husbands are called to love their wives is the same reason that Jesus loved the church—to make her holy before the Lord. Of course, there’s nothing any husband can do to provide spiritual cleansing for his bride. However, husbands are called to lead their wives (who are called to submit to their leadership) in a wholehearted pursuit of God. Though the husband isn’t the one who cleanses her, he is called to put her in the position that God would be at work in her life. Jesus devoted Himself to ministering to the church, so we could be made righteous before God. In the same ways, husbands are to live diligently and sacrificially, leading their wives in pursuing Christ, so they would be holy and blameless.

- **How did Jesus make the people of God holy and spotless?**
- **How is a husband responsible to make his wife holy and blameless before God?**

Day Four

EPHESIANS 5:28-31

In Genesis, we read that when God created woman, their relationship was described as being “one flesh” (v. 24). This means that a husband is to love his wife so much that the things he would naturally desire for himself, he wants for her just as much. In fact, in loving her as Christ does, a husband would naturally put her first. Their connection is so deep—relationally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually—that they are one. Several times in the New Testament, those who belong to the church are spoken of as members of the body of Christ (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27). The oneness that exists between a husband and wife serves as a picture of a believer’s unity with Christ, and all believers are called to cultivate a relationship with Christ that is as close as the most intimate marriage.

➤ **What does it mean that a husband and wife are one flesh?**

➤ **How does this reflect our relationship with Christ?**

Day Five

EPHESIANS 5:32



A mystery refers to something that is difficult, or even impossible, to explain, and for a long time marriage wasn’t fully understood by the people of God. Throughout history, from the time God married Adam and Eve and up until the time of Paul, people thought marriage was about a man and a woman. After all, this makes perfect sense. Except that this wasn’t ultimately what God intended. Whereas marriage truly is a great blessing to the husband and wife, as well as the children and even society at large, God’s ultimate purpose for marriage was that it would serve as a picture of Jesus’ relationship with the church. Through marriage, we not only have the blessing of sharing life within the closest of human relationships, but we also have the blessing of reflecting Christ to the world around us.

➤ **Why was marriage a mystery for so long?**

➤ **How would you describe the purpose(s) of marriage?**