

Matters of Life Series
MARRIAGE MATTERS FOR EVERYONE – Part 1
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February 21, 2010

The Big Idea

Matters of life matter to God. The Bible gives us great teaching on how we can be good at marriage, parenting, money, and time. Many people struggle with marriage because they go into it with some really wrong concepts. Not surprisingly, the same matters that make life work for everyone also make marriage work for husbands and wives.

Today we look at three wrong ideas that frustrate our lives and God's plan for marriage.

- Credit: Bill and Lynne Hybels, *Fit to Be Tied*

1. Marriage is not the end of loneliness.

- **Genesis 2:18** *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."* NIV
- Adam was alone but not lonely.
 - He was created perfect and in the image of God.
 - He wasn't unhappy.
 - He just didn't have what he needed for God's purposes for him.
- Being alone and being lonely are not the same.
 - Alone is the circumstance of no one else being around.
 - Loneliness is a feeling of being isolated.
 - "Loneliness is a feeling in which people experience a strong sense of emptiness and solitude. Loneliness is often compared to feeling empty, unwanted, and unimportant." (Wikipedia)
- Loneliness is worse than being alone.
 - You can be alone and not lonely.
 - You can be lonely and not alone.
 - Many married people feel lonely and isolated though they share their home and bed with their marriage partner.
- **Our deepest feelings of loneliness can only be met by God.**
 - **Hebrews 13:5** *For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never forsake you."* NLT
 - While God uses others to meet our needs, loneliness must first be met in God.
 - **Psalms 25:16** *Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.* NIV
- **Loneliness is a symptom of needing to spend time with God.**
 - If God doesn't meet our deepest needs regarding loneliness, we place impossible demands on others to meet them.
- If people marry to end their loneliness, they usually end up disappointed in their spouse and disillusioned with marriage.
 - They may try another spouse, only to be disappointed again.
- **Marriage offers companionship, but only God offers meaning.**
 - That's why *The Purpose-Driven Life* sold so many copies.

2. Marriage is not the answer to **brokenness**.

- Hurting people hurt others.
 - Hurting husbands and wives hurt each other.
 - Healing does not come from being married.
- **Healing comes from God.**
 - **Psalms 147:3** *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* NIV
 - **Isaiah 61:1** *He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.* NIV
- Man breaks what only God can fix.
 - We can't expect or demand that those who break us fix us.
 - Nor can we expect our mates to fix what others broke.
- One of the greatest reasons for broken relationships is emotionally unhealthy people.
 - Abuse, rejection, addiction, pornography, and especially divorce are not resolved by getting married.
 - In fact, marriage only causes those problems to be magnified.
- **“Marriage doesn't **create** any problems. It only **exposes** the ones we bring into it.”**

3. Marriage is not for **everyone**.

- Don't fall for the pressure to marry.
 - Don't ask people why they aren't married.
 - These pressures lead to questions like, “What is wrong with you?” What is wrong with me?”
- Paul says you are better off not getting married.
 - **1 Corinthians 7:1** *It is good for a man not to marry.* NIV
- **While marriage doesn't create any problems, it adds new **responsibilities**.**
 - **1 Corinthians 7:32-35** *I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-how he can please his wife- 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.* NIV

Marriage matters for everyone.

- Go after God's solution to loneliness.
- Get healed from brokenness.
- Give singles – and possibly yourself – a break.