

# Foundations 06

## *Marriage*


Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!

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“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;”

(Mark 10:7)

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## Introduction

### **The decline in marriage.**

Marriage is falling out of fashion.

Cohabitation was once widely seen as inappropriate, but a recent report by the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention found that...

3 out of 4 women in the US lived with a partner outside wedlock before age 30.

Around 70% say cohabitation is acceptable even if a couple doesn't plan to get married.

Only 14% say it's never acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together.

Only a narrow majority sees societal benefits in marriage.

The cohabiting couple family continues to be the fastest-growing family type in the UK.

62% of 18yr to 44yr have lived with an unmarried partner at some point in their lives

38% have had two or more partners.

60-75% of first marriages and 80-85% of re-marriages take place after some period of living together.

70% per cent of children now live in homes with cohabiting parents.

15% - Of families are single-parent families.

## **Same-sex**

A growing number of same-sex couples are living together or even “marrying.”

Same-sex couples recorded as living together in the UK rose by more than 50% in the three years to 2018.

The Office for National Statistics says there were 232,000 same-sex couples in 2018, and more than a quarter of them were “married”.

## **Finance**

The most cited reason for people choosing to live together rather than marry seems to be financial reasons.

They were putting the money towards a property as opposed to spending the money on getting married.

## **Living alone**

There were also eight million people living alone, more than ever before.

## **The results of this decline in marriage have been.**

Married adults express higher levels of relationship satisfaction and trust in their partner, than do those who are cohabiting.

Couples who live together are at a greater risk for divorce than non-cohabiting couples.

Cohabiting couples had a separation rate five times that of married couples.

Cohabiting couples are more likely to experience infidelity.

Children born to cohabiting parents see their parents break up more often than do children born to married parents.

Compared to married individuals, those cohabiting have higher levels of depression and substance abuse.

## **Compassion and understanding.**

Before we go any further let us say,

We are not here today to stand in judgment on people; however, they are living.

“There but for the grace of God go I”

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"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12)

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We are not claiming that we are better or wiser,

But that God created marriage and,

He knows best

He has the right to say what marriage is.

# Marriage, as God gave it.

We have already seen that God

Created all things

Created Man

But God's creativity is not limited to the physical world, but he also created the relationships that for our society.

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"And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. v8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." (Genesis 2:7-8)

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As we have said much of the time when the Bible speaks of Man it means mankind.

And God did create mankind.

But more specifically, here at the very beginning, God created a Man a male adult human.

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"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." (Genesis 2:15)

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"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. v19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. v20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18-20)

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## NOTE -

Some people here see a contraction in the Bible. In chapter one, God created the animals before man, and here he does it in front of Adam.

The probably answer to this is that.

God filled the Earth with all the creatures great and small before He man made.

But here before Adam, so Adam is a witness to the creative power of God, God creates them again in the garden.

When God created the fish etc. is says

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“... Let the waters bring forth abundantly ...” **Genesis 1:20**

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Now it does not say this of the land animals, but we can probably assume that God filled the Earth with the kind creatures too.

He probably did not make just one pair of each land animal if he filled the seas with sea creatures.

Now God creates just one or a pair of each animal Kind.

That they were anima Kind is essential for Adam to have been able to name them all.

God made dog kind, not the poodle and the great dane.

God made the cat kind not the tiger and the pussycat.

Animal Kinds becomes important to know when we come to the Ark of Noah's day.

**- NOTE**

Adam sees and names every kind of animal.

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“... but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.”  
(Genesis 2:-20)

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Animals are not a suitable marriage partner for man.

## **It is not good that man should be alone.**

As we have said much of the time when the bible speaks of Man, it means mankind.

And God did create mankind.

But more specifically, here at the very beginning, God created a Man a male adult human.

## **Woman.**

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"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18)

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Animals not...meet for him.

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“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; v22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. v23 And Adam said, [ probably should be something her of a WOW! ] This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. v24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. v25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

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At this point, God “pronounced the Divine marriage law that man and wife are one flesh.” (As Ellicott puts it.)

We know that this was now God speaking and not Adam continuing from naming his wife, from the words of Jesus in Matthew.

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“And he [ Jesus ] answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning [ God ] made them male and female, v5 And said, [God said ] For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? v6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Matthew 19:4-6)

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Here we have the **Foundation** of Marriage,

One of the key building blocks of society.

Given at Creation.

Still here in the very first six days of, well, everything.

While there were just two people

Before any kind of relationships had even been thought about or practised.

Possibly even before fatherhood or children had been thought about.

The creator institutes marriage.

## Why marriage?

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“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother”

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“For this cause shall a man leave father and mother”

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Why?

Because of God’s creation of a woman to be man’s, (in this case the adult human male), appropriate or proper partner. His proper helper or life partner.

Because God made woman to be man’s partner.

For future generations

Men and women should leave their parents,  
And cleave to the wife or husband.

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“they shall be one flesh”

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Undoubtedly this is a reference to sexual union

But maybe more than just the act of sex

Maybe the joining to gather as one family unit

But also as they have sexual union, they will literally become one flesh as their genes mix and form new flesh units that are the two become one.



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"And did not he [ God ] make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth." (Malachi 2:15)

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This is a bit of a complicated verse to us.

What is this "*Yet had he the residue of the spirit.*" Not sure.

But these parts are clear,

*"wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed."*

*and*

*"Let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth."*

God intends marriage to bring forth godly children

And Husbands to be faithful to their wives.

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"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4)

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Sex should be reserved for within the marriage.

Here eluded to by the idea of the "marriage bed"

## **Divorce**

We will not be looking at divorce today, but divorce was never part of God plan for marriage.

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“And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him. v3 And he answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? v4 And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away. v5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. v6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. v7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; v8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. v9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Mark 10:2-9)

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## Marriage is more... than marriage!

Let us start by noting here that...

Marriage was - instituted by God

It is not man's to change or regulate

The Government can not define marriage.

The US Supreme Court has held that states are permitted to reasonably **regulate marriage** by prescribing who can marry and the manner in which marriage can be dissolved.

But the “supreme court” does not have that power. They are not supreme.

In England and Wales the definition of marriage has been **changed by a law** passed through parliament. The swift passage of the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013 follows David Cameron's personal commitment to fast-track the bill.

But the UK government does not have the right to change the definition of marriage.

Boris Dittrich, the homosexual activist called the ‘father’ of the political movement in favour of Dutch gay ‘marriage’, has admitted that...

*“group marriages of three or more people is the next inevitable logical step in the dismantling of the western world’s traditional marriage laws...the carefully laid-out plan that established first public acceptance, legal civil partnerships, which in turn led inevitably to changing the definition of marriage. The redefinition of marriage, he said, has led to discussions of allowing group marriages of three or more persons.”*

We can be sure polygamists, paedophiles, and those engaging in bestiality and incest will demand rights.

**Enough of that!**

## **Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church.**

Throughout the Bible, God uses the illustration of marital faithfulness or more often unfaithfulness as an illustration of God’s relationship to His people,

Both **Israel** in the Old Testament

And **the Church** in the New Testament.

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“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. v23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. v24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. v25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; v26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, v27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. v28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. v29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: v30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. v31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. v32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. v33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Ephesians 5:22-33)

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We do not have time today to deal with the different roles of man and woman in the marriage, but note that,

While women are to submit to their husbands

Husbands are to love their wives, AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER.

The husband is not to dominate the wife, and the wife submit.

The husband is to sacrificial love the wife, and she is to submit to him.

## **Christ and his bride.**

*“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. v23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church”*

Marriage is an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the church.

*“Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.”*

And the other way around.

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; v26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, v27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. v28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.”*

How, when will the church be presented to Christ?

*“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”*

This is the very wording that Adam used of his bride.

Jesus became the very same flesh as we are...

To redeem his bride.

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“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

v32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:31-32)

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It is almost as though Paul is lost for words here and lost in wonder as he find himself teaching about...

Husband and wife...

And finds that he has somehow crossed over to taking about...

## **Christ and the Church.**

### **The Bride of Christ**

John the Baptist, talks of Jesus as the bridegroom, and himself as just the friend of the bridegroom.

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"He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." (John 3:29)

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The prophet Isaiah talked about God rejoicing over His chosen people as a bridegroom rejoicing over His bride.

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"... as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." (Isaiah 62:5b)

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God, through Ezekiel accused His people, at this time Israel, (now the church), as being unfaithful to him when they god after other gods.

He says that they are playing the whore or prostitute.

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"Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiated; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied." (Ezekiel 16:28)

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God speaking with Hosea says

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“... the land hath committed great whoredom, [departing] from the LORD.” (Hosea 1:2)

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When you are unfaithful to God, you are as it were prostituting yourself out to other gods.

There is much more that is said in the Bible about Israel of the Old Testament and the Church of the New Testament being spoken of as God's a marriage, or rather a betrothal, and engagement.

But this gives you a flavour of the idea.

Paul speaks of the church that he built, (with God's grace), as being just that, as being espoused to Christ.

Espouse = to give (a woman) in marriage.

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"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:2)

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## **The Marriage of the Lamb.**

We then get to the marriage.

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"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.** v8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. v9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." (Revelation 19:7-9)

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"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2)

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Now the city is not 'the bride', but "as a bride"

The city too is clean and holy and beautiful.

## **If you "redefine marriage..."**

When you change what marriage is,

[Now you can not change what marriage is, but you try to, you redefine it in man's eyes]

Now you have not just changed what relationships people can live in here on Earth,

But you have attempted to change the picture of the relationship between Christ and his Bride.

Like murder is an offence to the image of God in man

Redefining marriage is an offence to the image of the relationship between Christ and His church.



It is an abomination to God.

## Conclusion.

### **Same-Sex Marriage is a Blasphemy**

This study is not where we are going to go into detail about why homosexuality is wrong.

But we must note that Homosexual marriage... soon...

- Poli marriage
- Incests marriage (brother and sister was acceptable before Moses for DNA reasons) But not Father Daughter or Mother Son. And now Brother Sister is not acceptable either.
- Pedophilic marriage
- Bestial marriage

Are corruption of the image of the relationship of Christ and His church, His bride.

Many people dream of their wedding day.

They have plans

It will be the best wedding

White dress, flowers, songs, a great party...

But that is nothing, compered to what we should be looking for.

## You can be the Bride of Christ!

When Adam needed a wife,

God made him one who was

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“... bone of [his] bones, and flesh of [his] flesh ...” (Genesis 2:23)

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When God...

I do not really even know how to say this... but

Wanted a bride.

He became flesh and blood so that He might have a bride that was

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“... of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Ephesians 5:30)

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"This is **a great mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32)

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God wants you to be His Bride!

### You need to get ready to be the Bride.

To be the bride of Christ, you need your sins forgiven.

You need your wedding clothes.

You need a white dress, (or whatever our clothes maybe), they need to be clean,

You need to be sinless, pure.

## **You need to be, 'washed in the blood'.**

How can you be pure?

Speaking of those are the wedding of the Lamb we are told,

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“... These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14)

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Now some of you will not have gone through great tribulation.

From Adam until now people have died in Christ who have not gone through great tribulation.

But all must have,

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“... washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14)

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