

Husbands and wives, recognize that in marriage you have become one flesh. If you live for your private pleasure at the expense of your spouse, you are living against yourself and destroying your joy. But if you devote yourself with all your heart to the holy joy of your spouse, you will also be living for your joy and making a marriage after the image of Christ and His church.

John Piper

According to the Bible, the marriage act is more than a physical act. It is an act of sharing. It is an act of communion. It is an act of total self-giving wherein the husband gives himself completely to the wife, and the wife gives herself to the husband in such a way that the two actually become one flesh.

Wayne Mack

Indeed, the marriage act is the symbol or culmination of a more complete oneness, of a total giving of yourself to another person. Consequently, if the more complete oneness is not a reality, sexual relations lose their meaning.

Wayne Mack

The biblical union of two people into one flesh did not involve the annihilation of personal identity. The unity of marriage is not to be monistic but a unity in duality.

R.C. Sproul

The proper understanding of everything in life begins with God. No one will ever understand the necessity of conversion who does not know why God created us. He created us "in His image" so that we would image forth his glory in the world. We were made to be prisms refracting the light of God's glory into all of life. Why God should want to give us a share in shining with His glory is a great mystery. Call it grace or mercy or love- it is an unspeakable wonder. Once we were not. Then we existed- for the glory of God!

John Piper

We have been made to mirror God's holiness and righteousness back to God, not so we may benefit (though there are immeasurable benefits to personal godliness), but so God will be glorified in beholding Himself in His creatures.

John Hannah

### ***Marriage Matters***

Form Follows Function;

*Why God's Design Accomplishes God's Purposes*

Genesis 1, 2

**Introduction:** Does marriage really matter? God says "yes, because I designed it to accomplish the very purposes I intend to accomplish through humanity in My world. But even more, I have intended that through the unique "oneness" of marriage, the unique "oneness" of the Godhead will be both portrayed and praised." Marriage matters to God, and His design needs no editing.

#### **To understand God's design for marriage we must:**

##### **Begin with God's Design for All Creation**

**Genesis 1; Romans 1**

God's authority as Creator

God's purpose in creation

##### **Understand God's Design for Mankind**

**Genesis 1:26-28**

The image of God in humanity

The tasks assigned by God to humanity

##### **Recognize that God's Purposes demand God's Design** **Gen. 2:18**

Marital oneness: toward the unique oneness of God

Marital partnership: accomplishing the tasks assigned by God

#### ***Marital Life-ology . . .***

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# Kids Notes

## Marriage Matters

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *The reason God created everything that exists is:*

- A. so that His greatness would be displayed.
- B. because He didn't have anything else to do.
- C. that He couldn't stop it; it just sort of "happened."
- D. all of the above.

2. *In the relationship between husband and wife we can:*

- A. see shadows of the relationship of the Godhead in unity.
- B. come to better understand the unique oneness of God.
- C. see God's gracious provision for love and life.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Marriage matters to God because:*

- A. He created it.
- B. He uses it to display His glory and love to the world.
- C. through marriage, people are better able to understand Him.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *In Genesis 2:18, why did God say it was "not good" for Adam to be all alone?*

Space to Doodle

## Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

MARRIAGE _____	TOTAL: _____
UNIQUE _____	_____
IMAGE _____	_____
DESIGN _____	_____
PURPOSE _____	_____
GOOD _____	_____

## Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

MARRIAGE UNIQUE IMAGE DESIGN PURPOSE GOOD MAN WOMAN  
 HUSBAND WIFE ONENESS TRINITY RELATIONSHIP PLURALITY  
 UNITY FORM FUNCTION ACCOMPLISH KNOWLEDGE WISDOM SIN  
 SELFISHNESS TASKS MULTIPLY RULE SUBDUE CREATION CARE

T R X D W B E F V G T T S R L T E  
 D E M Y U Z C Q O O N E M U K N G  
 P L Y U N A M O W R L I O L S F D  
 D A T J L E H L B F M Y S E V L E  
 H T I S L T H S I L P M O C C A L  
 C I N K W E I S Y E Y P E E S C W  
 R O I S I R H P G T U T U A U J O  
 E N R A S N W A L R I Q I I B H N  
 A S T T E E I I P Y I L M N D Z K  
 T H W S C R N O S N U A A O U F Q  
 I I S A R V S E U D G R O R E T W  
 O P R A W E O L N E O G A W U H B  
 N E M F U N C T I O N M N A M L A  
 Y H T D N A B S U H D E S I G N P  
 E V U Z J S U E J H W Z G W I F E