

JOINED FOR MORE THAN JUST ENJOYMENT

July 26th, 2026

Foundations // Genesis 2:18-25

Message Context

Marriage is a gracious gift from God that brings genuine joy, but God designed it for far more than personal happiness. In Genesis 2, God joins a man and woman in a lifelong, one-flesh covenant that draws them out of isolation and selfishness, provides a holy context for sexual intimacy, and gives them daily opportunities to serve, sacrifice, forgive, and grow. Ultimately, every marriage is intended to point beyond itself to the covenant-keeping love of Christ for His church.

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. What is one ordinary or humorous difference between married couples that can become a source of either frustration or joy?
2. Who is a married couple whose faithfulness has encouraged you? What have you learned from watching their marriage?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

3. **Read Genesis 2:18-25.** What stands out to you most from a fresh reading of these passages, and is there anything from the message that you want to be sure we don't miss as a group?
4. Looking at the passage as a whole, how does God's design for marriage differ from the culture's understanding of marriage as primarily a means of personal fulfillment?
5. What does the phrase "a helper suitable for him" reveal about both the similarities and differences between the man and the woman?
6. What does Adam's joyful response— "At last, this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh"—teach us about God's provision of marriage?
7. The sermon said that "the better often comes after the worse." Where have you seen perseverance eventually produce something good?
8. What qualities do people in our culture commonly believe a spouse should provide for them?
9. How does viewing marriage primarily as a way to achieve personal happiness weaken a couple's commitment when disappointment comes?
10. Marriage brings another person close enough to see our impatience, pride, laziness, defensiveness, and selfishness. How can that closeness become an opportunity for spiritual growth rather than resentment? Why is it often easier to identify a spouse's failures than to begin by examining and confessing our own?
11. For those who are unmarried, how can meaningful involvement in the church provide opportunities to be known, challenged, and drawn out of selfishness?

12. What does it practically mean for a husband and wife to “leave” their parents and “cling” to one another? How should their priorities and allegiances change?
13. What does it mean for a husband and wife to become “one flesh”? How does this involve more than physical intimacy?
14. The sermon described marriage as joining covenant care with covenant sexuality. Why must sexual intimacy remain connected to the lifelong covenant of marriage?
15. What does verse 25 reveal about the trust, vulnerability, and unity God originally intended within marriage?
16. **Read Ephesians 5:25–32.** In what ways should a husband’s love reflect Christ’s sacrificial care for the church? In what ways should a wife’s response reflect the church’s relationship with Christ?
17. How does remembering Christ’s forgiveness help a Christian forgive, serve, and remain faithful to an imperfect spouse?

♡ PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

18. Where are you most tempted to treat marriage or close relationships as something that should primarily serve your happiness?
19. What expectations have you placed on a spouse—or future spouse—that only Christ can truly fulfill?
20. What is one specific way you could better display the grace of the gospel within your closest relationships this week?

Announcements

Worship Night: August 28 at 7pm – Our Director of Worship, Selena Boyts, is planning an evening of worship. Save the date – more details to come.

Sundaes on Sunday – August 2nd @ 4:00 pm – The whole church is invited to join us for an evening of fun and ice cream!

ServeNC – August 8th – Join us as we serve our community. Details and sign-ups at nvf.life/servenc

Resources for Going Deeper

- **A Biblical View of Marriage** - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/biblical-view-marriage/>
- **The Nashville Statement** - <https://cbmw.org/the-nashville-statement/>
 - This was a joint statement put out by Evangelical Christians from different denominations. It is a helpful statement on marriage, sexuality, and gender.
 - Statements can be a helpful tool for us.