

Dr. Ernie Baker  
Professor of Biblical Counseling  
The Master's College  
NANC certified Counselor

BCDASoCal Fall Conference Weekend 2 Hour 5

## **The Purposes of Marriage**

Introduction:

To build their marriage upon a biblical basis, a couple must be committed to fulfill God's purposes for marriage.

### I. Common reasons people get married

- A. To escape
- B. To gain social status
- C. To have legalized and guilt-free sexual gratification
- D. To gain a housekeeper or fix-it person
- E. To gain a sense of self-worth
- F. Economic reasons
- G. Desire a caretaker
- H. Children
- I. Partner is attractive and makes them feel good
- J. Many people desire marriage to get a bargain, to become happier, to feel more fulfilled, or to fill a void in their own lives.

### II. Biblical purposes

- A. **PURPOSE 1—Companionship** (Gen. 2:18a; Prov. 2:17; 1 Pet. 3:7)  
(Friendship)
  
- B. **PURPOSE 2—Completer** (Gen. 2:15, 18)
  
  
- C. **PURPOSE 3—Covenant** relationship representing Christ's relationship to His church (Eph. 5:22–32)

D. **PURPOSE 4 – Children** (Gen. 1:27-28a; 2:24c; 1 Cor. 7:3-5; Heb. 13:4)

E. **PURPOSE 5 – Collaboration for God’s glory** (Eph. 4:12; 2 Pt. 1:8 – same as one who is single) (Jay Adams “Covenant of Companionship”)

F. **PURPOSE 6 - Close, intimate relationship** (Gen 2:22-25)

G. **Results in a Comprehensive Partnership** (Gen. 2:24c)

(1) What this doesn’t mean:

- a) Uniformity—Loss of identity or individuality.
- b) Clone—No differences (Rom. 12 – Church is one, yet many parts)

(2) What this does mean:

- a) . Unity—Comprehensive, yet without constriction
- b) Partnership—Complete in every area of life
- c) Sacrifice—Commitment to sharing all of life together

(3) What do they share together?

(a) Cognitive/Intellectual

- i) Thoughts and ideas
- ii) All that each one learns

- iii) Insights, reasons in decision-making
  - iv) Opinions on various matters
  - v) Study, discussion of the issues of life
- (b) Desires/Feelings (Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 12:25)
- i) Joys and sorrows
  - ii) Grief and pain through the trials of life
- (c) Social Relationships
- i) Developing close friendships with the same people
  - ii) Common recreational activities
  - iii) Develop interest in each other's personal hobbies
  - iv) Extending hospitality to other people
- (d) Work
- i) Communicate about work related activities
  - ii) Home projects
  - iii) Difficulties related to work
  - iv). Rejoice with one another's accomplishments
  - v). Prayer about work
- (e) Spiritual Life (1 Peter 3:7)
- i) Praying together
  - ii) Reading and studying God's word
  - iii) Discussing spiritual problems and truth
  - iv) Common convictions and views
  - v) Local church involvement

- vi) Serving Christ in common ministries
- vii) Discuss what God is teaching you
- viii) Exhortation and encouragement
- ix) Testimony for Christ
- x) Raising up children
- xi) Counseling one another about personal sins
- xii) Confessing sins to one another
- xiii) Seeking and granting of forgiveness

(f).Physical and Sexual (Prov. 5; 1 Cor. 7)

- i) Concern for well being
- ii) Seeking to understand and adapt to one another's physical strengths and weaknesses
- iii) Demonstrating affection in mutually satisfying ways
- iv) Yielding to one another in expressing physical affection
- v) Dealing biblically with problems related to sexual relationship

(g)Aspirational

- i) Unity in goals (2 Cor. 5:9, Amos 3:2, Phil. 2:2)
- ii) Unity in desires regarding the marriage relationship
  - (aa)Family
  - (bb) Spiritual growth and service
  - (cc) Children
  - (dd) Finances
  - (ee) Occupational, educational, recreational
  - (ff) Overall future

(h).Difficulties and Trials

- i) Prov. 17:17—Can count on each other in adversity
- ii) Eccles. 4:9-12—Lifting one another up
- iii) 1 Thess. 5:11—Build up the other

Conclusion:

## *The Christian Marriage Covenant*

Believing that God, in His wisdom and providence, has ordained and establishes human marriage as a covenant relationship intended to reflect the eternal marriage covenant established through the death, burial, and Resurrection of His Son with His Church, and therefore believing that human marriage is a sacred and lifelong promise, reflecting our unconditional love for one another, and believing that God intends for the human marriage covenant to reflect His promise never to leave us or forsake us because of what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ, we, the undersigned husband and wife, male and female, as an image of God do hereby affirm and reaffirm our solemn pledge to fulfill our marriage vows, so help us God; we furthermore pledge to exalt the sacred nature, glory and permanence of God's eternal marriage covenant in His Son with the church through our marriage, by calling others to honor and fulfill their marriage vows; and we, upon full and informed consent and with full knowledge and understanding of this covenant and with the intent to enter into and be bound by the terms of this covenant, hereby irrevocably covenant and consent to submit any marital dispute we may have that we cannot resolve and any question concerning whether our marriage should be dissolved to the peacemaking process, including non-binding Christian mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries, and under the jurisdiction of our local church of which we are members, or if not members of a local church then under the jurisdiction of any church to which we can agree, but in any event if we cannot reach agreement as to a church for such purposes, then we consent and agree to submit to the peacemaking process as provided in the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemakers Ministries, to and including binding arbitration of all matters pertaining to our marriage and family, believing that any and all marital and family disputes and issues involve deeply important religious questions that should be resolved by Christians according to the standards set forth in the Holy Bible, and therefore we do both hereby agree to be bound by any arbitration decision as to any such dispute or issues concerning our marriage and family, which is made in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker Ministries.

*In the presence of God and these witnesses, and by a holy covenant, I,*

---

Husband's Name

*joyfully receive you as God's perfect gift for me, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love you, to honor you, to cherish you and protect you, forsaking all others as long as we both shall live.*

---

Husband's Signature

*In the presence of God and these witnesses, and by a holy covenant, I,*

---

Wife's Name

*joyfully receive you as God's perfect gift for me, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love you, to honor you, to respect you, forsaking all others as long as we both shall live.*

---

Wife's Signature

*Witnessed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of*

\_\_\_\_\_ , by

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder labors in vain. Psalm 127:1*