

QUIZ

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1. According to Pew Research's article, "A rising share of U.S. adults are living without a spouse or partner," what percentage of adults were without a partner (married or cohabitating) in 2019?

- A. 8%
- B. 27%
- C. 38%
- D. 53%

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2. According to the Institute for Family Studies' article, "The Religious Marriage Paradox: Younger Marriage, Less Divorce," what percentage of marriages start with cohabitation?

- A. 23%
- B. 45%
- C. 54%
- D. 70%

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3. According to Gallup research, "Is Marriage Becoming Irrelevant?" which group has not declined in their view that marriage is very important for couples with children or want to spend the rest of their lives together?

- A. Church attenders
- B. Certain political ideologies
- C. Certain racial demographics
- D. All demographics are declining

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QUIZ

4. Modern dating practices find their origin in the Bible?

- A. True
- B. False

QUIZ

4. Modern dating practices are godly and Biblical?

- A. True
- B. False

QUOTE

Despite this slide in marital rates, the vast majority of U.S. adults who have not been married -- 81% -- say they would like to get married someday. This is essentially unchanged from 78% when the question was last asked, in 2013.

Therefore, while people may think it is less important for couples to marry regardless of the situation, it is still a choice most people make, or hope to make, for themselves.

- "Is Marriage Becoming Irrelevant?"
Gallup News

4 Presuppositions

- Marriage is between an adult biological man and an adult biological woman
- Discussed from a biblical worldview w/ grace
- Marriage and singleness are both honorable states in the Word. Marriage does not mean you are more holy.
- This is to raise awareness rather than give a solution.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

CONTRACT	COVENANT
Transactional	Transformational
To make me Happy	To make us Holy
Breakable	Unbreakable
Depends on the people	Depends on God

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

²⁷So God created mankind (*adam*) in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number..."

Genesis 1:27-28a (NIV)

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

²⁴That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and **they become one flesh.**
²⁵Adam and his wife were **both naked**, and **they felt no shame.**

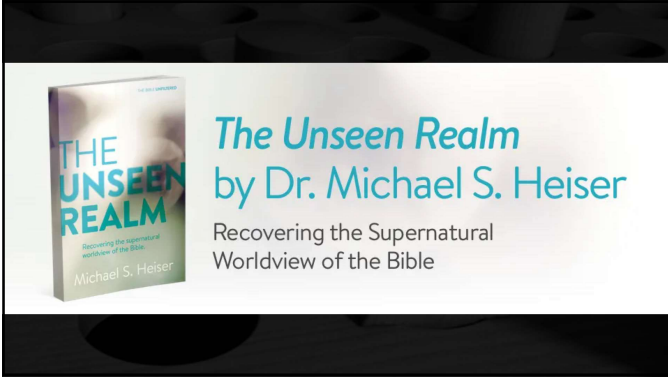
Genesis 2:18-25 (NIV)

1

Marriage is the full expression of the Imago Dei (the image of God)

BIBLE VERSES ON HUMANITY & THE IMAGE OF GOD

- God is not human (Numbers 23:19)
- Divine/Heavenly beings are not given in marriage (Matthew 23:10)
- But we do know that the angels have some form of procreative ability (Genesis 6:2)
- Man is like God but stationed a little lower than the 'elohim' (gods; divine beings) (Psalm 8:4-6)



WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR FINDING & CHOOSING A SPOUSE?

Genesis 24 Isaac and Rebekah

QUESTION:

Would you want to marry a spouse who didn't make you don't feel loved but unquestionably faithful to you in every way (physically, mentally, emotionally)? Or a spouse that always made you feel loved but leaves you questioning whether they may "love" others as well?

QUOTE

Dating as a social practice is a relatively recent phenomenon, emerging only within the last few centuries. From the standpoint of anthropology and sociology, dating is linked with other institutions such as marriage and the family which have changed rapidly, having been subject to the effects of advances in technology and medicine...

QUOTE

As humans societies have evolved from hunter-gatherers into civilized societies, there have been substantial adjustments in relations between people, with perhaps the only remaining biological constant being that a woman and man must have sexual intercourse for human procreation to happen **(not necessarily)**.

- Dating, Wikipedia

2

Marriage is a mindset and an intentional process of personal development and spiritual formation.

WHAT ARE SOME PRINCIPLES FOR "DATING" OR FINDING A SPOUSE

- Involve your family/community in the process (Gen. 24:1-3a)
- Keep your faith as a priority (Gen. 24:3-4)
- Marriage-minded vs lonely-avoidance (Gen. 24:4)
- Don't bring your past baggage into future relationships (Gen. 24:6-9)

WHAT ARE SOME PRINCIPLES FOR "DATING" OR FINDING A SPOUSE

- Invite God to lead your discerning process (Gen. 24:12-14)
- Understand your non-negotiables and believe God for them (Gen. 24:15-20)
- Quietly and deliberately vet character and behavior (Gen. 24:21)

HOW SHOULD WE BIBLICALLY ENGAGE DATING AND MARRIAGE?

- Model a positive example of family and lots of children (The Great Mitzvah)
- Hold marriage/sexual union as sacrosanct (most sacred or holy)

¹Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)

HOW SHOULD WE BIBLICALLY ENGAGE DATING AND MARRIAGE?

- Adaptable in our outreach, and uncompromising in our principles.
- The church must teach biblically comprehensive, pro-active sexual ethic that restores the sexual union as holy.

3

Marriage is a witness of Jesus' unconditional love (agape) for His bride, the church.

⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

Revelation 19:6-10 (NIV)

and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) ⁹Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the

Revelation 19:6-10 (NIV)

wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." ¹⁰At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

Revelation 19:6-10 (NIV)
