**The purposes of marriage**

1. Unbiblical purposes
2. Biblical purposes
* Purpose 1 – Companionship (Gen 2:18a; Prov 2:17; 1 Pet 3:7)
* Purpose 2 – Assistance (Gen 2:15, 18)
* Purpose 3 – Characterization of God's relationship to His people and Christ's relationship to His church (Eph 5:22–32)
* Purpose 4 –Sexual Union (Gen 1:27-28a; 2:24c; 1 Cor 7:3-5; Heb 13:4)
* Purpose 5 –Ministry/Fruit (Eph 4:12; 2 Pet 1:8 – same as one who is single)

**The partnership of marriage**

1. What this doesn't mean:
* Uniformity - Loss of identity or individuality.
* Clone - No differences (Rom 12—Church is one, yet many parts)
1. What this does mean:
* Unity - Comprehensive, yet without constriction
* Partnership - Complete in every area of life
* Sacrifice - Commitment to sharing all of life together
1. What do you share together?
* Thoughts and ideas
* Desires/Feelings (Rom 12:15; 1 Cor 12:25)
* Social Relationships
* Work
* Spiritual Life (1 Pet 3:7)
* Physical and Sexual (Prov 5; 1 Cor 7)
* Concern for well being
* Goals and purpose
* Difficulties and Trials

# The priority of marriage

## Two steps to making the marriage relationship the priority

## STEP 1 – God says children must leave their parents (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Eph 5:31)

## STEP 2 – God says the man must cleave to his wife (not "wife and parents")

## Leaving and cleaving does not mean:

* Break off all relations
* Bear no responsibility (1 Tim. 5:8)
* Abandon family
* Geographic distancing
1. Leaving and cleaving does mean:
* Leave behind a dependency relationship (emotional, financial)
* Leave behind your parents’ temporary God-given authority over you
* Leave behind parent-centered and parent-controlled manner of living
* Leave behind the dependence upon parents’ approval
* Leave behind parents as chief confidantes
* Leave behind family's ideas about family structure and functioning
* Cleave to peer–relationship with parents
* Cleave to full responsibility for life and decisions
* Cleave to viewing parents as advisors
* Cleave to biblical standards for life and family living
* Cleave to your mate's opinions, insights and concerns as most important

## Practical guidelines for adult children about implementing the “leaving” concept after marriage:

* Don’t allow your parents to demean your mate.
* Don’t complain to your parents about your mate.
* Consult with your mate and make mutual decisions about relationships with parents.
* When involved in conversations or activities with parents make sure to include your mate.
* Don’t try to change your mate in an attempt to meet your parent’s

approval.

* In dealing with both sets of parents function as a team.
* Look for every opportunity to commend your mate to your parents and to extol the virtues of your mate.
* Look for every opportunity to commend your mate to his or her parents and to extol the virtues of your mate.
* Avoid making your mate the bad guy if disagreements with parents arise or if you can’t fulfill your parents’ desires.

## Practical guidelines for parents about implementing the “leaving” concept after their children marry:

* Make your relationship with your mate the primary human relationship.
* When rearing your children, be focusing on getting them ready to

leave; be preparing yourself and them for this eventuality.

* As they grow older, train them to accept more and more responsibility for their own

decisions and lives; give them more and more independence.

* Always keep in mind that your children are loaned to you by God.
* As they grow older and certainly when your children are married or of marriageable age, work on developing an adult relationship.
* Give your children the right to disagree without being hurt, pushy or punishing them.
* Be willing to listen to them and learn from them.
* Recognize that they may have greater insights and understanding in some areas than you do.
* Accept your child’s mate as an equal to your own child.
* Seek to influence by your example and relationship rather than by force or manipulation.
* Give without expecting anything in return.
* Recognize your are not the primary human being in your child’s life.
* Do everything you can to strengthen the marriage relationship.
* Pray regularly for them.
* Praise the in-law to your child.
* Treat the in-law as your own child.

# The purity of marriage

## Biblical commands (Heb 13:4; Ex 20:14; 1 Pet 3:1-2; Prov 5:15-20)

## Involves commitment in several areas:

* Purity in behavior
* Purity in thoughts
* Purity in affections

## Involves commitment to remove behavior, thought and desire patterns that lead to impurity

**The permanence of marriage**

## Marriage is based on commitment not feelings or attraction.

## Marriage is an irrevocable covenant or contract to which you are bound (Mal 2:13-16, Prov 2:17; 5:19; Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5-6)

## Marriage is about a man and a woman promising that they will be faithful to each other regardless of what happens.

## Marriage means that a husband and wife enter into a relationship for which they accept full responsibility and in which they commit themselves to each other regardless of what problems arise.

**The perseverance in marriage**

## Constant evaluation with biblical principles/priorities

## Constant work/effort to change and grow = Cultivate

## The preeminence of God in marriage

## Biblical commands (Col 1:18; Matt 6:33)

## Ways to make God preeminent

* Look to God for direction in all of life (Ps 119:160).
* Follow God's will (James 1:22–25) – be doers of God’s Word.
* Desire to please God in all (2 Cor 5:9).
* Love God's Word and desire to read, understand and obey it.
* Pray together.
* Love Christ's church.
* Eliminate things that dishonor God (Col 3:5–9).
* Make personal holiness, not happiness and pleasure, the central theme in how you make decisions.
* Possibly meet together with a few other godly couples who are pursuing the same goal.

# The practice of marriage and family counseling

## Responsibility of ongoing counseling

* Parents (Eph 6:4)
* Husbands and wives (Eph 5:25-27; Prov 31:10-31; Gen 2:18)
* Elders (Eph 4:11-12; 1 Pet 5:1-4)
* **All Christians (Gal 6:1-2; Rom 15:14)**
1. Special care through structured counseling
* Preventive or preparatory (Acts 20:28-31; Matt 20; 2 Pet 2)
* Remedial or corrective (Gal 6:1-2; 1 Thess 5:14; James 5:20; Luke 17:1-10)