**TITLE: MARRIAGE by DESIGN: (**God’s Creation**)**

**Introduction:**

* **Purpose**: To bring up the conversation of marriage to help the new generation understand the covenant of marriage.
* **Readers will gain**: a picture of marriage as a life-long covenant, and not a contract subject to termination.

**Chapter one: The “Law of First Mention”**

* Marriage in the order of Creation, Genesis 2:24(NASB).
* One man; one woman
* God’s purpose for the Family Unit

**Chapter two: Exploring Marriage on all sides**

* God’s institution not Man’s
* Western Culture Contract
* A Covenant- sacred and godly (Matthew 19:4-6)

**Chapter Three: Modern Day Dynamics and Social Structure**

* There are no Modern-Day Exceptions in the Bible
* Accept the whole Bible
* Choose one road to travel (your sure destination).

**Chapter Four: Marriages modeled in the Bible**

**Chapter Five: Make A Decision!**

* First things First: Repent!
* The Salvation gift
* Surrender it ALL

**Chapter Six: Ask God for His Instructions**

* Why Marriage?
* Follow His Instruction
* Wait the right way

 **Chapter Seven: The Covenant Promise**

* The Marriage Vows, what do they mean
* A promise to God
* A promise to each other

 **Chapter Eight: Keeping the Covenant Promise**

* The Five Love languages
* When For Better or for worse is presented
* Strengthen your marriage

 **Chapter Nine: The Charge**

* Strengthen your brother
* Strengthen your sister
* Live it out loud

 **Chapter Ten: Give Back**

* Share your struggles
* Mentor a husband
* Mentor a wife

**INTRODUCTION**

It is important to understand that man did not invent marriage; it is God’s institution. The only model we should be following is God’s model, since it is his design. Many people have been introduced to marriage from a worldview rather than a biblicalview.

The worldview does not present marriage as sacred and godly. This view mimics the western world which varies from culture to culture, dating back to Ancient Greece and Rome where it was more a legal contract between a man and a woman rather than a covenant. In modern day society marriage is usually copied, rather right or wrong based on what has been modeled to us.

The best way to understand marriage as a necessary institution is to consider its meaning in the “Law of first mention” where marriage was established in Genesis in the order of creation.

God is a God of order. In the first chapter of the Bible, he introduced his creation. in the beginning he created the Heavens and the Earth in Genesis 1:1-19(the first 4 days of creation). He then created the animals and living creatures of the water and sky in Genesis 1:20-23(the 5th day). The Sixth day he made living creatures of land and the human (Gen 1:24-27).

Secondly, we need to understand that marriage was and still is intended to be a covenant between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6).

After God created the first man, Adam (1:27), He took a rib from Adam and create a woman as his helpmeet (his partner), creating the first husband and wife as bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh calling them “One Flesh” (1:23-24).

Marriage, God’s way is the first step to creating a family according to God’s plan. According to Hebrews 13:4, marriage cannot be redefined to fit the modern-day family dynamic and the social structures that surrounds them.

It appears that marriage has been kicked aside by the generations coming for lack of a true understanding of creating the family through God’s model of marriage. From generation to generation the reasoning for not wanting to marry changes. In some generations, many were not reared in two-parent homes where they saw marriage modeled in any way. Possibly in other situations, reared in two-parent homes where kosher marriage relationships were not displayed and depicted a negative picture. Thus, lacking a clear understanding of what marriage should look like, they settled on the world’s way of creating a family unit. Their consideration of creating family subtracts marriage from their dynamic of partner relationships, having children, or establishing a home together.

Exploring marriage from all sides, while concentrating on its intended purpose by God, will help us see why we really need to get back to the covenant marriage dynamic.

**Chapter One**

**The Law of First Mention**

*Marriage in the order of Creation*

According to Genesis 2, Marriage came from the mind of God in this order of creation. God created marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman. Therefore, man cannot model marriage without God’s instructions. Marriage consists of three cords, the man, the woman, and God. A marriage having only two cords, the man and the woman, excluding God usually struggles to survive. Think about it, a braid usually takes three strands to create a neatly woven unit. A braid consisting of three married cords creates a neat, strong, and not easily broken (Eccl 4:12). This is God’s description of marriage, God being the center strand to create a tightly woven cord. On the other hand, two cords are just twisted together maybe appearing a little raggedy and not so neat looking, causing it to easily come undone as it is handled, since the twisted cord is more temporary than permanent.

*One man; one Woman*

Since God created marriage to be a covenant between one man and one woman, the man and the woman must stand before God in the presence of men and make a promise not just to each other but to God. God declares this promise a union making the man and woman one instead of two. They have become bonded, and joined together by God. In Matthew 19:6 he charges them to acknowledge that what he has joined together cannot be separated. Not even by them. Webster’s dictionary says, “a promise is a legally binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made, a right to expect or claim the performance or forbearance of a specific act.” There is that word again, “binding.” This promise is binding. The expectation is that the man and woman will remain glued together until death separates them. Again, God’s plan, his institution, and his instructions.

*The first man*

God created the man first for a reason. The first man, Adam was created in God’s image (Gen 1:27). The first man became the model for man. In the image of God, a man is able to think, have emotions, and have a will. He was created to obey God with his whole being, his soul, his spirit, and his body and have fellowship with Him. God made man on the sixth day along with other living things, but he made man to have dominion over the earth and all creatures, but he is subjected to God as the creator of all things, making man finite as God is infinite (Gen 1:26-28). In giving Adam charge of all things God had made in the prior five days, this included giving him free rein over selecting a mate for himself. Upon looking around at his many choices Adam did not see anything suitable for himself. God being a loving God concerned about everything that concerns us decided He would make Adam a suitable mate. God then performed what we call the first surgical procedure and caused Adam to fall asleep (guess we can call this the first act of anesthesia), he took a rib from Adam’s side and made him a woman. When he brought Adam back to himself, he accepted the woman and named her Eve and she became his wife and marriage was designed by God (Gen. 2:21-24).

*The first woman*

As described in the biblical creation story in Genesis chapter two and three, Eve became Adam’s wife, and the female model of a woman, not necessarily a model for the wife. Eve was created to line up under Adam, her husband who had dominion over everything and everybody now that Eve has been created. Eve was positioned in the Garden with Adam, there first residence to get to know each other and be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth (Gen.1:28).

God thought of everything. He prepared the earth to receive everything Adam would need to form and care for the first family. He gave Adam a Home, the garden, he gave him a career, to work the garden so he could feed his family, he gave him position and respect giving him dominion over all the animals, and most importantly he gave him a helpmate to procreate the earth.

Basically, God fulfilled for Adam, him finding his “God Thing.” One of the many most quoted verses in the Bible, Proverb 18:22 that says, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.” The great thing to notice here is that God did it for Adam as a model for man. Since Adam had a relationship with God, a man’s first step towards modeling a marriage designed by God would be to ask God to give him a rib like he gave Adam a rib. Marriage created by three must first start with God’s instruction to the man.