

SHOULD MARRIAGE MATTER TO ME?

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV): “*Marriage should be honored by all...*”

Why does marriage exist? What might be the purpose(s) behind this God-inspired relationship?

1. Marriage serves an _____ purpose. (See Ephesians 5:31-32)

2. Marriage serves two practical purposes:

In Genesis 1:28 God tells the first couple to “*be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.*” This first creation account describes a purpose of marriage as _____.

In Genesis 2:24 we read: “*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*” The other practical purpose for marriage has to do with _____ between the man and woman...it is a _____ purpose.

The New Compact Bible Dictionary:

“The unity of husband wife is of God’s creative will, for from Him come the love and grace which enable them to grow together in life comradeship (_____), to beget children (_____), and fulfill their responsibilities toward their children and to society as a family unit. Husband and wife become once in relation to the community, so that through marriage a new social unit emerges.”

Should marriage matter to me?

Yes, because it makes for healthier _____ and _____.

The road to a healthy marriage and healthy relationships includes:

1. Asking myself: “_____?”

a. Is my relationship with Christ _____?

b. Do I understand my _____ in the marriage/relationship?

2. Asking of my marriage: “Are we committed to raising a family where _____?”

Proverbs 22:6

Ephesians 6:4

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:14,15 (NIV)

Findings from the Institute for American Values

(2nd edition, published 2005)

Regarding well-being of married couples (unitive purpose)	Regarding well-being of communities (procreative purpose)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marriage fosters a high quality of _____ between adults. 2. Married couples seem to build more _____. 3. Marriage is associated with _____ rates of alcohol/substance abuse. 4. Married people, especially men, have _____. 5. Marriage is associated with better _____. 6. Marriage appears to reduce the risk that adults will be either perpetrators or victims of _____. 7. Married mothers have lower rates of _____. 8. Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing _____. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers and mothers have good _____ with their children. 2. Divorce and unmarried childbearing increase _____ for both children and mothers. 3. Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of _____. 4. Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better _____. 5. Parental marriage is associated with a sharply lower risk of _____. 6. Boys raised in single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent and _____ behavior. 7. A child who is not living with his/her own two married parents is at greater risk for _____.
Other general findings of note from the study	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ is not the functional equivalent of marriages. 2. Marriage is a virtually _____ human institution. 	