

God Time Day 1: Partnership Strengthens and Sanctifies



Read Genesis 2:18a.
It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.

From the beginning, God’s design for marriage has always been to create a partnership – though that word is not strong enough.

Read Genesis 2:24b.
...they become one flesh.

The original language for the word “one” here is the same word used for “one” in Deuteronomy 6:4:

Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Yes! Marriage reflects God. Both our “one” and our “two” (see Week 1) are about “WE, not me.” It’s a partnership that requires sacrifice.



How would it feel to be in a relationship where you had absolute confidence that the other person always had your best interest at heart? What will you do to be that person?

God Time Day 2: We, Not Me



In case it wasn’t clear from Genesis, let’s see what Jesus had to say about God’s purpose in marriage.



Read Matthew 19:4-6.
“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and he also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”



Circle all words which talk about marriage as a joining.

Underline who joins a man and woman in marriage.



Describe what you think it means to be “joined together.”

God Time Day 3: Marriage: Covenant, Not Contract



In a world which puts a price tag on everything, it would be easy to treat marriage like a mere business partnership with a contract. The biblical view of marriage is much more – it is a sacred covenant.



Consider the differences between a contract and a covenant:

Contract	Covenant
An Agreement	A Pledge
Based on lack of trust	Based on trust
Must define valid period	Assumes permanence
Defines each party’s responsibilities	Full commitment for both
Limits liability of breach	Affirms consequences if broken



A covenant is not based upon what one does because of what the other has done, but simply on what one pledges to do, no matter what. How is a relationship more secure when it is not dependent on what the other partner does?

How does this understanding of covenant affect your idea of what marriage means?



List three things that you commit to do in your relationship that have no bearing on what the other does:

1.

2.

3.

God Time Day 4: Godly Leadership and Mutual Submission



So far this week, we've looked at marriage as a union or partnership which combines a man and a woman into "one flesh." This union can only succeed when each partner is fully committed to the other (unselfishly) and pursues what is good for the union rather than themselves. The nature of this is a covenant rather than a contract. Based on this view of marriage, it should come as no surprise that mutual submission (an orderliness of roles, not individual value) is an essential part of the relationship.



Read Ephesians 5:1-2, 15, 21-25.

¹Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, ²and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

¹⁵Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise.

²¹submitting to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.

In Verse 2, who is to walk in love? (Hint: look in the mirror)

In Verse 21, who is to submit to another? (Hint: ditto)



Summarize what submission looks like for wives. (vv.22-24)

Summarize what submission looks like for husbands. (v.25)



Remember, the key to this is in Verses 1-2. If we fail to imitate God and His sacrifice for us, we distort what "submitting to one another in the fear of Christ" really means.

God Time Day 5: Choosing to Love



This week's vow is, "Marriage is about we, not me." But this idea is exactly opposite of what our world says about relationships. Consider some common sayings:

- I'm just not in love with them anymore.
- Being with them doesn't do anything for me anymore.
- We're just not growing together.
- I don't need that kind of negativity in my life.
- It is just time for me to move on with my life.

All these phrases reveal a false understanding of love. Godly love is not based on temporary feelings, but on selfless commitment. Why else would God have sent Jesus to die on a cross? (John 3:16)

Godly love is a way of acting toward someone rather than how we feel about them.

Watch this short video on Agape-Love.

Use the QR or search YouTube:

"Bible Project: Agape-Love"



Read 1 John 4:7-11.

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.



Write out a plan for acting in love towards your spouse or those close to you even when you don't feel like it.

Take a vow of partnership on page 24.