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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1 ESV

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<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. —Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

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<sup>18</sup>Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

<sup>19</sup>Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

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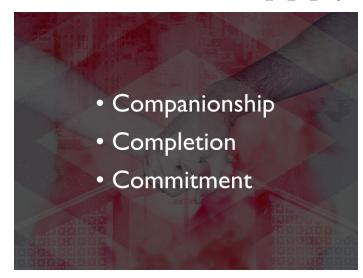
<sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. —Genesis 2:18-25 ESV

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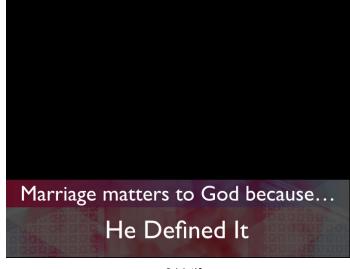
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<sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." —Genesis 2:21-23 ESV

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<sup>4</sup>He answered, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup>and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' <sup>6</sup>So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

—Matthew 19:4-6 ESV

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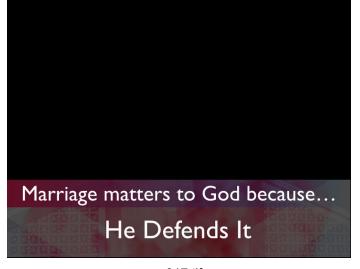
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God's definition of marriage is...

- Gender Specific
- Covenant Focused
- Mission-Minded

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You shall not commit adultery.
—Exodus 20:14 ESV

Covenant = a life-long partnership made before God resulting in a lifetime of belonging and caring for one another.

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I<sup>4</sup>But you say, "Why does He not?"
Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. I<sup>5</sup>Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.

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So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. <sup>16</sup>"For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

-Malachi 2:14-16 ESV

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Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

—Hebrews 13:4 ESV

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"This is the secret—that the gospel of Jesus and marriage explain one another. When God invented marriage, He already had the saving work of Jesus in mind."

—Tim Keller

Marriage matters to God because...
He Displays It

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

—Ephesians 5:32 ESV

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