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

—Genesis 1:1 ESV

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²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷So 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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¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
¹⁹Now 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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²⁰The 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. ²¹So 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. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

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²³Then 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.” ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. —Genesis 2:18-25 ESV

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Marriage matters to God because...
He Designed It

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- Companionship
- Completion
- Commitment

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²¹So 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. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then 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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Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
—Genesis 2:24 ESV

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Marriage matters to God because...
He Defined It

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⁴He answered, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' ⁶So 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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³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
—Ephesians 5:31-32 ESV

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“Since the world did not design marriage, it cannot redefine marriage.”

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God's definition of marriage is...

- Gender Specific
- Covenant Focused
- Mission-Minded

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

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Marriage matters to God because...
He Defends It

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

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¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Did 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. ¹⁶“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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Marriage matters to God because...
He Displays It

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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

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

—Ephesians 5:32 ESV

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