

How To Reach God's Goal For Marriage

(Genesis 2:18-25)

by John Paul Miller

INTRODUCTION: The first marriage: Genesis 2:18-23

What is God's goal for marriage?

Answer: (vs. 24-25) 3 things:

1. **Permanency** (vs. 24) "cleave unto his wife"
Jesus gave us a commentary on this verse (Matthew 19:6)
"What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder"

Why the Mosaic provision? (Deut 24)

Jesus said (vs. 8) "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts allowed you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so!"

Divorce is not God's will for your marriage!

Don't concede it!

2. **Unity** (vs. 24) "one flesh"
"one soul dwelling in two bodies"

3. **Intimacy** (vs. 25)

We need God's plan and purposes for sex in marriage!

Why aren't more couples reaching God's goal?

Answer: False Expectations!

What She Expects:

1. Her husband will be a brilliant conversationalist.
2. He will be sensitive, kind, understanding, and loving.
3. He will work hard.
4. He'll help around the house, wash dishes, vacuum the floor, and care for the yard.
5. He will help raise the children and will be a great father.
6. He will be physically and emotionally strong.
7. He will be as smart as Albert Einstein and look like Robert Redford.

What She Gets:

1. He's so dull, she's bored even when he's giving her a compliment.
2. He doesn't have any ulcers; he's too busy giving them.
3. He's well-known as a miracle worker --- it's a miracle when he works.
4. He helps her with dinner by taking her out to eat. Some day he may even take her *inside* the restaurant instead of to the drive-up window.
5. Occasional flashes of silence make his conversation brilliant.
6. Whenever he has an idea, the whole thing could fit in a nutshell.
7. He has the looks of Albert Einstein and the brains of Robert Redford.

What He Expects:

1. She will be a stimulating conversationalist.
2. She insists that doing the yard work keeps her figure looking like a model's.
3. She's a natural beauty without the help of curlers or beauty shops.
4. She will be an expert cook and homemaker.
5. Her favorite expression will be, "What can I do for you, dear?"
6. She will think everything he says and does is brilliant.
7. She'll hate charge cards.

What He Gets:

1. She speaks 140 words a minute with gusts up to 180.
2. She was once a model --- for a totem pole.
3. No matter what she does with her hair, it looks like an explosion in a steel wool factory.
4. She is a light eater: as soon as it's light, she starts eating.
5. Where there's smoke --- she's probably there cooking.
6. She thinks he has only two faults --- everything he says and everything he does.
7. If she gets lost, he just opens his wallet, and she magically appears.

One person said: "When I got married I was looking for an ideal then it became an ordeal; now I want a new deal."

Let's not forget that there is no perfect marriage!

Why?

1. Marriage is two sinners living together
2. Satan's first attack was against the home (Genesis 3:1)
 - a) the corruption of Satan
 - b) the curse of God!

Marriage is God's idea and He wants us to achieve His goals of: Permanency, Unity, and Intimacy

How do we reach God's goals in marriage?

1. Love

Notice: Timothy 3:1-4

In the last days:

- a. Love self
- b. Love money – covet
- c. Love pleasures

Without natural affection

Wife – Titus 2:4 – “the older women, teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.”

Husband – Ephesians 5:25 – “husbands love your wives.”

Note:

1. Both husband and wife are to love each other!
2. To love each other means that next to Jesus your spouse is number one in your life!

a) Dangers:

- i. Wives – love your children more than your spouse
- ii. Husbands – put your job ahead of your wife and family
- iii. Putting parents or other people ahead of your spouse

“Love is not a passing emotion but a constant devotion.”
Warren W. Wiersbe

“When Mr. And Mrs. Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them, “To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?” “The formula is the same one I’ve used in making cars,” said Ford. “Just stick to one model!”

Are you committed to your marriage?

It’s the will, you chose

“When a man offers his hand in marriage to a woman he says by his act that his heart has made choice of her among all women, that he has for her a deeper and tenderer affection than for any other. At the marriage altar he solemnly pledges to her a continuance of that love until death. When the beauty has faded from her face and the luster from her eyes, when old age has brought wrinkles, or when sickness, care or sorrow has left marks of wasting or marring, the faithful husband’s love is to choose his wife among all women and to find its truest delight in her.”

J.R. Miller, “The Home Beautiful”

3. Communication

“A golden anniversary party was thrown for an elderly couple. The husband was moved by the occasion, and wanted to tell his wife just how he felt about her. She was hard of hearing, however, and often times misunderstood what he said. With many family members and friends gathered around, he toasted her: “To my dear wife, after fifty years together, I’ve found you tried and true!” Everyone smiled with approval, but his wife said, “Eh? What did you say?” The husband repeated louder, “AFTER FIFTY YEARS TOGETHER I’VE FOUND YOU TRIED AND TRUE!” His wife harrumphed and shot back, “Well, let me tell you something – after fifty years together, I’m tired of you too!”

“Kevin and Sarah, a young couple, were sitting out on a porch swing. Sarah asked, “Kevin, do you think my eyes are beautiful?” Kevin answered, “Yep.” In a few moments: “Kevin, do you think my hair is attractive?” Again Kevin answered, “Yep.” In a while: “Would you say that I have a gorgeous figure?” Once again Kevin answered, “Yep.” “Oh, Kevin,” she said, “You say the nicest things.”

To often communication is killed when:

1. we don't talk enough
2. we talk too much and don't listen
 "swift to hear and slow to speak"
3. we speak in anger – Arguments
4. we don't speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)

"Truth without love is brutality and love without truth is hypocrisy."

"Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts, nor measure words, but pouring them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

Eph 4:29-31

Note: words that build up!

I Love You

Thank You

Eph 5:18-20

Note: your words and the Holy Spirit

4. Time Together (Relates to Communication)

I Peter 3:7 – "like wise ye husbands dwell with them according to knowledge."

Things you can do:

1. talking
2. reading the Word of God together
3. praying together
4. doing something fun together
 shopping? Go on a date!
 Take interest in each other

"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

Martin Luther

5. time for meeting each others sexual needs (1 Cor. 7)

5. Common Goals

Amos 3:3 – “can two walk together except they be agreed?”

Don't be unequally yoked! (1 Pet. 3)

Goals:

1. to love God
2. to serve God
3. to glorify God

6. Forgiveness (Eph 4:32)

The signs of an unforgiving spirit (Eph 4:31)

Forgiveness is seen in (Eph 4:32)

1. Kindness

David to Jonathan's son “Mephibosheth”

2. Tenderheartedness

Websters – “a person on the same side of a struggle; a supporter, a sympathizer.”

If we don't it grieves the Holy Spirit (vs. 30)

Remember: God for Christ's sake has forgiven you!

It's treating others the way God treats us!

Perhaps you need God's forgiveness!

Receive it! (1 John 1:9)

Give it!

God's goal for your marriage is: Permanency , Unity, and Intimacy

How?

1. Love
2. Commitment
3. Communication
4. Time Together
5. Common Goals
6. Forgiveness

1. Begin with yourself
2. Be vulnerable
3. Accept the uniqueness of your mate
4. Be the initiator