



## **Marriage by Design, Part 1 :: *Marriage in the Beginning* :: Voddie Baucham**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our culture often views getting married and starting a family as a last resort. In our fast-paced, high achieving society, this lifestyle is deemed as a hindrance in the quest for success. But God designed marriage on purpose, for a purpose (and it isn't our happiness). Discover what this purpose is and how it can impact your understanding of marriage.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What are some examples of how marriage is disparaged in our culture?
2. If you are single and looking to get married, what are your expectations for marriage? If you are married, why did you get married?
3. Read Genesis 2:18-25. How has God designed men and women to complement each other in marriage? If you are married, why is it a good thing that God paired you with your spouse?
4. Read Genesis 1:26-28. One of the purposes of marriage is procreation--filling the earth with people who will be God's representatives. What do you believe is God's plan for you in the area of parenthood?
5. The other purpose of marriage is illustration--in marriage we are to be representatives of God's love. What do you believe is God's plan for you when it comes to marriage?
6. Are your views of marriage and kids based more on conviction or on convenience?

### **THINK ABOUT IT**

God hasn't designed everyone to experience marriage. Nor has he designed everyone to have children. But for those who have been chosen to experience them, marriage and children are a blessing. In your thoughts and attitudes, do you view marriage and children in this way?

### **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

How do the two purposes of marriage impact your marriage (or future marriage)?

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."* Genesis 2:18