

The Bible on Marriage

Australian Views of Marriage.

What do your peers think of marriage?

How would they define it?

Do they want to get married? Why/Why not?

The Bible on Marriage.

God's Design – Genesis 2:18-25, 1:27-28

What was God's original design for marriage?

Jesus Teaching – Matthew 19:3-6

What does Jesus teaching on marriage teach us?

Come up with a definition for 'marriage'.

Share your definitions.

The Law on Marriage.

The Marriage Act 1961 Section 45(1)

Subject to subsection (2), before a marriage is solemnized by or in the presence of an authorized celebrant, not being a minister of religion of a recognized denomination, the authorized celebrant shall say to the parties, in the presence of the witnesses, the words:

“I am duly authorized by law to solemnize marriages according to law. Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.”;
or words to that effect.

How does this compare to the Bible’s teaching?

The Marriage Service.

A Service for Marriage – Second Form from *An Australian Prayer Book* p560.

According to AAPB, what are the 3 purposes of marriage?

How does this compare to the Bible’s teaching?

According to AAPB, what is the purpose of sex?

How does this compare to the Bible’s teaching?

How does this compare to cultures understanding?

Update your definition of marriage.

Being Married

Split into guys/girls

Ephesians 5:22-33

What is the husband's responsibility?

What is the wife's responsibility?

What will this look like in practice? (What will it not look like?)

What does this point us to?

INTERMISSION – 15 min break for supper

Supporting each other

All together

To the married people:

What are some of the challenges of being married?

What can the church, singles and other married people be doing to support you in your marriage?

Is marriage what you expected? Explain.

To the single people:

What have you found helpful/unhelpful from relationships with married people?

What can married people do to support you?

(We'll look more at singleness next week!)

Thinking it through

Split into marrieds/singles

Married people:

Is your marriage reflecting God's design for marriage?

In what ways have you adopted the world's principles in marriage?

What (with God's help) needs to change in your thinking and behaviour for your marriage to be more in line with God's decrees?

What can you be doing to support single people?

Single people:

If you hope to get married, what are your expectations for marriage?

How do they differ from God's design for marriage?

What can you be doing to support married couples in their marriage?

Pray in groups

Further Reading: *Married for God* by Christopher Ash