

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 22

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## What Is Marriage?

A few years ago, if one would have looked up the definition for marriage it would have read, “a legal union of a man and woman” (The American Century Dictionary). However, if one would google the definition for marriage today it would read, “The legally or formally recognized union of a man and a woman, or in some jurisdictions two people of the same sex as partners in a relationship.” So, now the question is, what is marriage? Well, to answer this question, let’s make our appeal to what the Bible says about marriage.

### **Marriage Was Designed By God and Is For The Union of A Man and A Woman.**

God was the One who designed marriage. Why? Well, because, after God created man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7) He said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him*” (Genesis 2:18). God, then caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and then He took a rib from him and made it into a woman (Genesis 2:21-22). You see, God made a woman for man so that he would have a help-mate, and so that he would not be alone. However, the fact of the matter is, God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman, and the man and woman are to be joined together (i.e. united in marriage) and they are to become one flesh (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6).

### **Marriage Is A Partnership With Designed Roles.**

The apostle Paul wrote, “*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...*” (Ephesians 5:22-23). Here, Paul is comparing the partnership of marriage between a man and a woman to the relationship of Christ and the church, and just as Christ is the head of the church, so man is to be the head of the wife. Likewise, husbands are to love and honor their wife (Ephesians 5:28; 1 Peter 3:7), and wives are to love and respect their husband (Ephesians 5:33; Titus 2:4-5). My friends, when men and women understand, and respect the role of one another in the marriage relationship, they will be better equipped to enjoy a partnership that is pleasing not only to one another, but also, one that is pleasing to God (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

### **Marriage Is Honorable.**

The Hebrews writer penned, “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*” (Hebrews 13:4). You see, marriage is honorable among all, but only if it is a proper union of a man and a woman. Why? Well, first of all that is how God designed marriage to be (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9). Secondly, marriage is only honorable if it is a proper union between a man and a woman, because homosexuality is an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13). Therefore, men and men or women and women cannot be united together in marriage, and have an honorable marriage before God, for again, it must be a proper union between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-5). Likewise, those guilty of adultery cannot unite in marriage to another and be pleasing to God (Matthew 19:9; Romans 7:2-3), for by doing so, they will be in an adulterous relationship, instead of an honorable one before God.

### **Marriage Is For Life.**

When the Pharisees asked Jesus the question concerning a man divorcing his wife for any reason, Jesus replied, “*Have you*

*not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, For this a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:4-6). Friends, first notice what Jesus said in (v.4). He said, God, in the beginning, made them male and female. Not male and male or female and female, but rather male and female. Secondly, Jesus quoted (Genesis 2:24) concerning a man being joined to his wife, and the two becoming one flesh. Finally, Jesus said in (v.6) what God has joined together, let not man separate. You see, marriage is a life-long commitment between a man and a woman, and Jesus goes on to explain in (v.9) that the one, and only exception, permitted by God for a lawful divorce is fornication. Simply put, when a husband or a wife is guilty of fornication (i.e. has sexual intercourse with another who is not their spouse) the innocent party can put away the guilty party, and be free to remarry another who is Scripturally eligible to be married. May we all take those words of Jesus to heart, and may we all be ever mindful of God’s will for a marriage between a man and a woman to be one that last till death do they part.*

These are just a few examples of what God’s word says about marriage. I believe that we all probably noticed that nothing is mentioned about marriage being anything except a union between a man and a woman. So, to answer our question, marriage is, “a lawful union between a man and a woman” which God had designed from the very beginning. Marriage is a partnership which has designated roles. Marriage is honorable, and it is to be a life-long commitment.” Now, although some are trying to redefine marriage, and make it something other than what God intended for it to be, we need to always remember to obey God rather than men (Ref. Acts 5:29) when it comes to marriage!

*✍ Brad Phillips*

## “Done In Love”

Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:14)

This one simple rule (when followed) ensures that all will be done well. Love for God; love for others; concern for my soul; seeking to help; these should guide my words and actions every day.

When I arise in the morning and greet those of my household, let there be love. When I enter the workplace or step on the school bus, let there be love. When I navigate heavy traffic, let there be love. When I shop at Wal-mart, let there be love. When I question others’ motives, let there be love. When I talk politics, let there be love. When I shout from the stands, let there be love. When I endure my enemies, let there be love. When I gather with the church, let there be love. When I oppose wickedness, let there be love. When I proclaim the truth, let there be love. When I say my goodnights, let there be love. When I say my goodbyes, let there be love.

As I live and when I die, let there be love. Let all that I do be done in love.

*✍ David McPherson*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

**Website: [www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)**

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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