

You can TRUST God's Design

Scripture References

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 NKJV

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 14:12 NKJV

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. **John 2:1-11 NKJV**

And here's a second offense: You fill the place of worship with your whining and sniveling because you don't get what you want from God. Do you know why? Simple. Because God was there as a witness when you spoke your marriage vows to your young bride, and now you've broken those vows, broken the faith-bond with your vowed companion, your covenant wife. God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. "I hate divorce," says the God of Israel. God-of-the-Angel-Armies says, "I hate the violent dismembering of the 'one flesh' of marriage." So watch yourselves. Don't let your guard down. Don't cheat.

Malachi 2:13-16 MSG

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **And God saw the light, that it was good;** and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. **And God saw that it was good.** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. **And God saw that it was good.** So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the



earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. **And God saw that it was good.** So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. **And God saw that it was good.** And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. **And God saw that it was good.**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. **Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 1:1-31 NKJV

Now the Lord God said, "It is not good (beneficial) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable and complementary for him."

Genesis 2:18 AMP

But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason 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.

Mark 10:6-8 NKJV

Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.

Leviticus 18:22 NLT

... God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

Romans 1:26-27 NLT

For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 AMP

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Romans 5:6 NLT

Notes and Highlights

God's Design "In the Beginning"

IN THE BEGINNING

- Too often, we read familiar bible passages and just quickly speed through or skimming. When we stop to think about what a particular word or phrase actually means, we get so much more out of it.
- Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning..." This is where it all starts
- On a human level, the beginning of a romantic relationship entails so much hope and yet so much fear as well
 - Is this person "the one"?
 - Will this person love me just as I am?
 - Will this person leave me? Can I trust them?
- IMPORTANT REMINDER: romantic relationships are so much more than just the sexual aspect. "Try before you buy" is not a biblical way to determine whether that person is the one God created for you.
- We often look at the relationship, or prospective relationship, in terms of how it will benefit us. The key question, however, is NOT "What can he/she do for me?" Rather, at the beginning of any relationship, we should ask ourselves whether we are the right person for the one we love.
- A lot of times, in the beginning of a relationship, people do not reveal their true selves. They try to be what they think the other person expects them to be. REMINDER: true intimacy can only come from total honesty and openness.

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD

- In the beginning, when our hearts start racing and we get butterflies in our stomach whenever we see or are near that special person, it is all too easy to forget that God is there. God has to be in the picture, ideally right from the beginning.
- Begin with the end in mind. The heart racing, butterfly stomach beginning is the easy part. The hard work of the "happily ever after" story is the middle and the end. You need solid foundations in Christ to be able to be the man or woman you need to be for a successful relationship to grow and endure.
- God will help you be true and honest to yourself and to each other, as this is the only way to gain trust and have true intimacy.
- It is impossible to become a One-Unit-Being without Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "glue" that cements them together. REMINDER: Don't try to find your satisfaction in the relationship, rather build your relationship with God, and then let God build and strengthen your relationship.

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED

- It is God who created you and the person you love.
- It is God who created emotions, desire, and powerful passions, which like fire, can be beautiful, amazing and wonderful when harnessed and expressed in the proper setting.
- It is God who created the very first institution - marriage. Is it any wonder that Jesus' very first miracle was at a wedding? (see *John 2:1-11*) God is the God of relationship and fellowship. God created mankind to be in relationship with us and to have fellowship with us. God created marriage to be a real-life concrete representation of that special bond. (see *Malachi 2:15*)
- God created marriage to be a source of power, for procreation, for blessing. Thus, Satan, our enemy seeks to destroy marriage as he wants to destroy anything that God set up.

- God entrusted the institution of marriage to us, and it is incumbent upon the church to study and teach the Master's Design, including the fundamental elements that need to be practiced for successful relationships that bring joy to the couple and glory to their God.

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

- Usually, at the start of romantic relationships, we feel like we are in "heaven" – everything is wonderful and beautiful. And then, the earth, or reality and humdrum everyday life intrudes...
- We get too caught up in the fairy tale notions of what love is and don't know how to nurture our relationships according to God's design.
- When God is at the center of our relationship, He is never too late nor too early. God is always on time, and will reveal "the one" to you.
- Love is a choice. True Love is something you choose. The Holy Spirit working within us can teach us to endure loving somebody even when they seem absolutely unlovable. And that is a choice – to exercise unconditional love, just as Jesus did for us.
- Love is action.

Why God created the institution of marriage

- In Genesis 1, God created everything and after each stage of creation, He saw that it was "good" six times (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). On completing all creation, God saw that it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).
- In contrast, in Genesis 2, God sees that it is "not good" for man to be alone. And God created the right companion for Adam.

God-ordained Design for Marriage

- God put thought to what He was putting together. God-ordained, God-designed relationship is for a man and a woman.
- God created Eve from and for Adam. Marriage is between a man and a woman. This is what Jesus has to say about marriage, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother [and be joined to his wife], and the two shall become one flesh'" (Mark 10:6-8).
- Same-sex unions are an abomination to God and cannot truly be a marriage. It is a contradiction of the very nature of marriage. It is not based on the natural complementarity of male and female. New life cannot be born of these relationships. The God-given purpose of sexual union cannot be achieved by a same-sex union. A true conjugal union can never occur in a same-sex union. It is wrong to equate their relationship to a marriage.

Fear of Missing Out

- What if the person I am currently in relationship with is not "God's Will" or "the one"?
If we believe in God, and if we know that God has the best in mind for us (see Jeremiah 29:11), then we don't have to be afraid of missing out.
- In due time (at the right time), God knows and He will work things out.
- God's timing is always right. If God orchestrates our salvation, then He will also time our relationships right.