



## *The Issue of Sex and Marriage*

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**When is it the right time to get married? No streetside survey question is capable of producing such a wide variety of answers. Priorities such as finishing education, or pursuing advancement in career, or getting one's financial house in order seem to prevail over the trip to the altar in modern America. Over the last half decade, the average age of men and women at their first marriage has risen by nearly five years. In a society held hostage by fear over sexually transmitted disease, the issue of sex and marriage is relevant!**

### ■ Essential Questions

1. *Why was marriage created?*
  - Career activity may not provide fulfillment.  
Genesis 2:15-17
  - Creative expression may not provide fulfillment.  
Genesis 2:19-20a
  - Relationships may provide personal fulfillment.  
Genesis 2:18,20b-21

2. *How is marriage distinctive?*
  - It recognizes God's intent from creation.  
Genesis 2:22
  - It elicits a man's commitment to a woman.  
Genesis 2:23
  - It demonstrates a man's loyalty to a woman.  
Genesis 2:24a
  - It bonds a man's relationship to a woman.  
Genesis 2:24b
  - It purifies a man's intimacy with a woman.  
Genesis 2:25

### 3. *Why is marriage vulnerable?*

- People discount the importance of marriage to God.  
Matthew 19:3-6
- People discount the importance of marriage to one another.  
Matthew 19:7-9

### 4. *Who should be married?*

- People who do not have the gift of singleness.  
I Corinthians 7:7-8
- People who lack the self-control to remain single.  
I Corinthians 7:9
- People whose relationship is headed toward sexual intimacy.  
I Corinthians 7:1-2
- People who cannot live without sexual intimacy.  
Matthew 19:10-12

### ■ Specific Instructions

1. Evaluate the validity of being single.
2. Exercise discretion in your dating.
3. Measure your disposition to intimacy.
4. Defend yourself against immorality.
5. Engage in marriage before intimacy.