

Preparing for Marriage (Women)

For women who are not married: God's design for marriage and how to prepare to be a godly wife.

What is God's Design for Marriage?

God's design for marriage is rooted in creation. In Genesis 2:24, marriage is described as a lifelong union between one man and one woman, where they leave their families, join together, and become "one flesh." This reflects a deep, intimate, and covenantal relationship ordained by God.

Key principles include:

- **Unity:** A husband and wife are to become one in purpose, commitment, and intimacy.
- **Exclusivity:** Marriage is a unique and exclusive relationship intended to mirror God's faithful love.
- **Permanence:** Marriage is meant to be a lifelong covenant, not a temporary arrangement.
- **Companionship:** Marriage provides mutual support, love, and care between husband and wife.

Why is Marriage Important to God's Kingdom?

Marriage is important to God's kingdom because it reflects His nature and advances His purposes on earth. Here's how:

- 1 Reflecting God's Image:** In marriage, two distinct individuals come together as one, displaying the unity and diversity within God's own nature (Genesis 1:27).
- 2 Fulfilling His Mandate:** Through marriage, God provides a means for humanity to "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28), raising children in a godly environment to continue His mission.
- 3 Building Strong Families:** Marriage forms the foundation of stable, godly families, which are essential for a healthy church and society.
- 4 Demonstrating the Gospel:** Marriage is a visible representation of the Gospel, as it points people to Christ's sacrificial love and the unity He desires with His Church.

How Does Marriage Reflect Christ's Relationship with the Church?

Ephesians 5:31-33 makes it clear that marriage is a profound mystery that reflects Christ's relationship with the Church:

- 1 Sacrificial Love:** Just as Christ gave Himself up for the Church, husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, prioritizing her well-being above their own desires.
- 2 Unbreakable Covenant:** Marriage mirrors the covenantal relationship between Christ and His Church, demonstrating faithfulness and commitment.
- 3 Sanctification:** In the same way Christ sanctifies the Church, marriage provides a context for spiritual growth, where both husband and wife are refined to become

more Christ-like.

- 4 Unity:** Christ and the Church are one body, just as a husband and wife are united as "one flesh." This unity reflects the depth of God's love and the oneness believers have with Him.

Disclaimer: This is a high-level summary of a vast and profound topic. God's design for marriage encompasses deep theological truths and practical applications that go beyond what is covered here. Further study, prayer, and reflection are encouraged to gain a fuller understanding.

(1) What Does it Mean to Be a Godly Wife?

A godly wife reflects the Church's love for Christ in her relationship with her husband. This means honoring, supporting, and respecting her husband while cultivating a Christ-like spirit of humility, love, and grace. Her role is rooted in God's Word and calls her to display biblical character, prioritize her husband's well-being, and create a Christ-centered home.

Biblical Characteristics of a Godly Wife:

- 1 Respect and Honor:** Ephesians 5:22-24 urges wives to respect and submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ. A godly wife honors her husband's role as a spiritual leader, supporting him with love, trust, and encouragement.
- 2 Loving Support:** Proverbs 31:10-12 describes a godly wife as one who does her husband good, not harm, all the days of her life. She is his partner, helping him succeed and grow spiritually, emotionally, and practically.

- 3 Gentleness and Patience:** Colossians 3:12-14 emphasizes the importance of putting on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. A godly wife is slow to anger, quick to forgive, and strives to reflect Christ's love in all interactions.
- 4 Spiritual Growth and Leadership:** 1 Peter 3:1-4 encourages wives to live with purity and reverence, influencing their husbands by their godly example. A godly wife prioritizes her relationship with God, modeling spiritual growth and encouraging her husband and family to do the same.

Evaluation Questions for Self-Reflection:

Use these questions to examine your understanding and readiness to fulfill the role of a godly wife:

- 1** Do you show respect and honor?
 - How do you respond to authority and leadership in your relationships?
 - Are you building up the men in your life with words of encouragement, or do you struggle with criticism and control?
- 2** Are you supportive and loving?
 - Are you committed to serving others selflessly?
 - How do you encourage those around you to grow and succeed?
- 3** Do you exhibit gentleness and patience?
 - How do you handle conflict or disagreements?
 - Are you quick to forgive, or do you hold onto bitterness?
- 4** Are you cultivating spiritual growth?

- Are you consistent in your walk with Christ through prayer, Bible study, and obedience?
- How would your example encourage your future husband to grow spiritually if you were married today?

Practical Assignment:

- 1 Write a Summary:** Based on the Scriptures (Ephesians 5:22-24, Proverbs 31:10-12, 1 Peter 3:1-4, Colossians 3:12-14), write a brief summary of the qualities and responsibilities of a biblical wife.
 - Include specific traits like respect, loving support, and spiritual growth.
 - Highlight how these traits reflect the Church's relationship with Christ.
- 2 Self-Evaluation:** Reflect on your current season of life. Answer the following:
 - What areas do you already demonstrate Christ-like love and respect?
 - What areas do you need to work on to prepare to be a godly wife?
- 3 Action Steps:** Identify two specific actions you can take this week to grow in one of the areas you feel weakest. Examples:
 - "Pray daily for the men in my life."
 - "Practice responding to conflict with patience and grace."
 - "Memorize and meditate on a Scripture about Christ's humility."

For Those Who Are Not Yet Married:

If you are not currently married, consider how you can cultivate these traits now:

- Are you actively growing in patience, humility, and spiritual maturity in your personal life?
- Write a prayer asking God to equip you for this role and to give you wisdom and strength as you prepare for marriage.

(2) Dating with Intention (if applicable)

Dating with intention means approaching relationships with a clear purpose that aligns with God's design for marriage. It's not about casual dating or following worldly patterns but about honoring God, yourself, and the person you are dating. This approach seeks to build a Christ-centered relationship that reflects purity, love, and respect.

Principles of God-Honoring Dating:

- 1 Pursue Purpose:** Date with the goal of discerning if the relationship could lead to marriage rather than dating for fun or convenience.
- 2 Maintain Purity:** Commit to physical and emotional boundaries that honor God and protect each other's hearts.
- 3 Communicate Openly:** Be honest about expectations, faith, and goals for the relationship.

- 4 Encourage Growth:** Support your boyfriend (or future partner) spiritually, prioritizing prayer, Bible study, and serving together.

Evaluation Questions for Dating with Intention:

Use these questions to reflect on how you can approach dating in a way that pleases God:

- 1** What is your goal for dating? Are you dating with marriage in mind, or is it just for companionship or fun?
- 2** How does your approach to dating align with God's design for relationships?
- 3** Are you prioritizing purity?
 - Have you set clear physical and emotional boundaries?
 - How will you ensure those boundaries are maintained?
 - What steps can you take to avoid temptation?
- 4** Are you building a Christ-centered relationship?
 - Are you encouraging your boyfriend (or future partner) in his faith journey?
 - Are you willing to pray together, discuss Scripture, and serve together?
 - How are you honoring him as a brother in Christ?
- 5** How are you treating your boyfriend with respect and kindness?
 - Are you serving selflessly and showing Christ-like love?
 - Are you guarding his heart by being clear about your intentions and avoiding unnecessary emotional entanglement?
- 6** Are you involving God in your relationship?

- Do you regularly seek God's guidance in prayer regarding your relationship?
- Are you open to God's will, even if it means walking away from the relationship if it's not right?

Practical Assignment:

Write down three specific ways you can honor God and your boyfriend (or future partner) in a dating relationship. Be as detailed as possible.

Examples:

- **Purity:** "I will set clear boundaries, such as avoiding being alone in private settings, and I will enlist an accountability partner to help us stay pure."
- **Communication:** "I will be honest about my intentions and openly share my faith journey, ensuring our conversations glorify God."
- **Spiritual Growth:** "I will encourage us to pray together before making major decisions and suggest shared Bible studies to grow spiritually."

For Those Who Are Not Yet Dating:

If you are not currently dating but hope to in the future:

- Reflect on how you can prepare now to date with God's purpose in mind.

- Write a prayer asking God to guide you in becoming a godly woman ready to pursue a relationship according to His will.

Questions to Consider:

- What kind of boundaries do I need to set before entering a relationship?
- How will I pursue a relationship with intentionality and clarity?
- Am I willing to seek wisdom and accountability from mentors or spiritual leaders?

(3) Serving and Honoring Men in Singleness

God calls women to have a healthy and respectful view of men, recognizing their value as brothers in Christ and serving them with Christ-like love and humility. Whether you are single, dating, or divorced, this assignment encourages you to honor and support the men in your life during this season of singleness. This practice reflects God's love and helps build strong, Christ-centered relationships that honor Him.

1. Reflect on the Men in Your Life:

Make a list of men you interact with regularly, such as:

- **Family Members:** Fathers, brothers, sons, or male relatives.
- **Friends:** Male friends or those you mentor or are mentored by.
- **Coworkers or Peers:** Colleagues, classmates, or acquaintances.
- **Church Community:** Pastors, ministry leaders, or men in your fellowship.

2. Evaluate Your View of Men:

Take a moment to reflect on your perspective toward men.

- Do you see them as image-bearers of God with inherent value and purpose (Genesis 1:27)?
- Are your interactions with men marked by kindness, respect, and humility?
- How can you better model Christ's love in your attitude and actions toward them?

3. Brainstorm Practical Ways to Serve and Honor Men:

Consider specific ways you can serve and encourage men in your life.

Examples include:

- Acts of Kindness:
 - Offer help with tasks they find challenging or time-consuming.
 - Provide encouragement or assistance when they face difficulties.
- Words of Encouragement:
 - Express gratitude for their positive contributions in your life or community.
 - Speak words that build them up, reflecting respect and appreciation (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Praying for Them:
 - Commit to praying for their challenges, growth, and walk with Christ.
 - Ask how you can pray for them specifically and follow through with intentional prayer.

Examples of Serving and Honoring Men:

1 Family:

- "I will thank my dad for his guidance and make time to listen to his advice."

- “I will encourage my brother in his career or studies by affirming his efforts and offering support.”

2 Friends:

- “I will check in on a male friend facing a tough situation and offer to pray for him.”
- “I will celebrate a friend’s success by sending a congratulatory note or encouraging message.”

3 Coworkers or Peers:

- “I will express appreciation to a male coworker for his teamwork and contributions.”
- “I will be intentional about showing kindness and respect in conversations with male peers.”

4 Church Community:

- “I will thank the men serving in leadership or ministries at church for their faithfulness and pray for them.”
- “I will offer support by volunteering for an event or project that encourages men in their spiritual growth.”

Reflection Questions:

- How do you currently view and interact with the men in your life?
- Are you intentional in looking for ways to serve and encourage them?
- How can you better reflect Christ’s love in your actions toward men?

- What is one thing you can change to develop a healthier and more respectful view of men during this season of singleness?

Practical Assignment:

- 1 List Practical Steps:** Write down specific ways you can serve and honor men in your life this week.
 - Consider family, friends, coworkers, and men in your church.
 - Focus on tangible actions like helping with a task, offering encouragement, or praying for them.
- 2 Commit to One Action per Category:** Choose one person from each group (family, friends, peers, or church) and take a specific action to serve or honor them this week.
- 3 Reflect on Your Experience:** Write a short reflection on how these actions impacted your perspective toward men. How did it help you grow in love, humility, and respect?

By honoring and serving men during your season of singleness, you will cultivate a Christ-like attitude that values relationships, reflects God's design, and prepares you for deeper connections in the future.

(4) Reflection for Divorced Women (if applicable)

Divorce can be a painful and challenging experience, but it also provides an opportunity for growth, healing, and aligning your heart with God's design for relationships. This section is designed to help you reflect on lessons learned, pursue healing and forgiveness, and prepare for healthier, God-honoring relationships in the future.

Principles for Reflection on Divorce:

- 1 Seek God's Perspective:** Understand that while divorce may be part of your story, it does not define your identity or your future. God's grace offers redemption and renewal (Isaiah 43:18-19).
- 2 Learn from the Past:** Reflect on what went wrong in your previous marriage, including your contributions to challenges and what you can do differently in the future.
- 3 Pursue Healing and Forgiveness:** Allow God to heal your heart, release bitterness, and extend forgiveness to yourself and your former spouse (Ephesians 4:31-32).
- 4 Align with God's Design:** Use this season of singleness to grow spiritually, deepen your relationship with God, and commit to living out His design for relationships moving forward.

Evaluation Questions for Divorced Women:

Use these questions to reflect on your journey:

- 1** What lessons have you learned from your previous marriage?
 - What worked well and what didn't?

- What patterns or behaviors in yourself contributed to the challenges?

2 How have you grown since your divorce?

- Have you sought spiritual growth and wisdom through prayer, Scripture, or counseling?
- What steps are you taking to become more like Christ in your relationships?

3 Are you pursuing healing and forgiveness?

- Have you forgiven yourself and your former spouse?
- How are you releasing bitterness or resentment to God?
- What practical steps (e.g., counseling, prayer, accountability) are you taking to heal emotionally?

4 How will you approach future relationships differently?

- What will you do differently in communication, conflict resolution, or spiritual growth?
- How will you ensure your next relationship is grounded in God's design and purpose?

5 Are you aligning with God's design for relationships?

- Are you using this season to prepare your heart and mind for God's plan for your future?
- Are you seeking to honor God in your relationships with others, even if you remain single?

Practical Assignment:

1 **Reflect on Lessons Learned:** Create a list for each of the following:

- What did you learn from your previous marriage about yourself and about God's design for marriage?
- How have you grown spiritually and emotionally since your divorce?

2 Identify Areas for Growth: Create a list of strengths and weaknesses in your character as they relate to relationships. Be honest with yourself.

- Strengths: What godly traits do you already possess that you can carry into future relationships?
- Weaknesses: What areas do you need to work on to better reflect Christ's character?

3 Plan for Healing and Forgiveness: Write down specific steps you are taking to pursue healing. Examples:

- "I will commit to daily prayer, asking God to help me release bitterness."
- "I will seek professional counseling to work through unresolved hurt."
- Write a prayer asking God to help you forgive yourself and others, and to guide you toward His plan for future relationships.

Reflection Questions for Personal Growth:

- Are you becoming more Christ-like in your relationships?

- How has this season helped you rely more on God and His grace?
- How can you honor God in your singleness, even as you prepare for the possibility of future relationships?

By seeking healing and aligning your heart with God's design, you can embrace this season as an opportunity for growth, trusting Him to guide your path toward hope, purpose, and peace.

(5) Final Section: Defining Your Future Relationship

This section will help you clearly define the qualities you want to bring into a future relationship and the qualities you desire in a future spouse. It will also remind you that becoming the woman God calls you to be is essential for building a God-honoring relationship.

Principles for Defining Your Future Relationship:

- 1 Start with Yourself:** A healthy relationship begins with personal growth. Focus on the qualities you want to bring into a relationship and how you can reflect Christ's love.
- 2 Seek God's Wisdom:** Your future spouse should share your commitment to Christ and possess qualities that align with God's design for marriage.
- 3 Prepare Intentionally:** Becoming the woman God is calling you to be ensures that you are ready to support, encourage, and love well in a future relationship.

Practical Assignment:

1 Make a List of the Qualities You Want to Bring into a Future Relationship: Reflect on how you can grow into a godly wife and partner. Write down specific qualities and actions you want to embody. Examples:

- A gentle and quiet spirit (1 Peter 3:4)
- Patience and kindness
- Commitment to purity and integrity
- Humility and selflessness
- Strong communication skills and emotional maturity
- A heart for encouragement and serving others

2 Make a List of the Qualities You Would Like in a Future Spouse: Think about the kind of man you would like to marry and the qualities he should have. Focus on qualities that align with God's Word. Examples:

- A strong faith and commitment to Christ
- Leadership rooted in humility and love
- A heart for serving others
- Integrity and faithfulness
- A desire for partnership in building a Christ-centered marriage
- Shared life goals and values

3 **Reflect on How You Can Become the Woman He is Looking For:** Review the qualities you desire in a spouse and consider:

- Would a man with these qualities be drawn to who you are today?
- What areas of your life need growth to reflect Christ more fully?

- Write down specific steps to work on becoming the woman who is ready for the type of relationship you want to build.
- Examples of Steps:
- “I will commit to daily prayer and Bible study to strengthen my relationship with God.”
- “I will seek accountability and mentorship to grow in areas where I struggle, such as patience or communication.”
- “I will practice serving others in my community to develop humility and a heart for encouragement.”

General Summary of God’s Design for Preparing for a Future Relationship:

- 1 Marriage is God’s Sacred Covenant:** A reflection of Christ’s relationship with the Church, marriage is about unity, selflessness, and sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:25-33).
- 2 The Call to Personal Growth:** Before entering a relationship, focus on becoming the woman God has called you to be—one who can support, encourage, and love in alignment with His design.
- 3 Dating with Intention:** Pursue relationships with purpose, maintaining purity, honesty, and a Christ-centered focus.

- 4 Reflect on the Past to Prepare for the Future:** Use lessons from your experiences to grow and align yourself with God's expectations for relationships.
- 5 Pray and Trust God:** Trust in God's timing and guidance as you prepare your heart and life for a future relationship or marriage.

By focusing on these principles and taking intentional steps, you can prepare yourself for a relationship that reflects God's love and purpose, while growing in your own faith and character.

Key Scriptures for Study:

- Genesis 2:18-24 – God's creation of woman as a helper.
- Ephesians 5:22-24 – The role of a wife in submitting to her husband as to the Lord.
- Proverbs 31:10-31 – Characteristics of a godly woman.
- 1 Peter 3:1-6 – Wives reflecting Christ through their conduct.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – Characteristics of godly love.