



Restoring Hope To Your Marriage

Handouts: Chapter #1

* Approach to Building a Great Marriage

- ✦ Faith: Acquire God's view of marriage (chapters 1-4)
- ✦ Forgiveness: Recover from marital setbacks (chapters 5-7)
- ✦ Friendship: Obtain a great marriage (chapters 8-10)

* Ingredients of a great marriage?

Please make a list to the right of the five most important factors in a great marriage.

- 1.)
- 2.)
- 3.)
- 4.)
- 5.)

* Signs of giving up on marriage?

Inside

Lack of contentment
Bitterness
No excitement in being with one's spouse
Unforgiving spirit
Disrespectful attitude toward spouse

Outside

Distracted with busy lives
Imagination/ Pornography
Flirting
Marital affairs
Disrespectful words about spouse

* What does marriage look like?

This is the world's concept of marriage—a human binding **contract** between a husband and his wife.

God's concept of marriage—a God-created **covenant** uniting a man and a woman before Him for life.

The _____ View

Connect the dots below.



The _____ View



Marriage truly is a triangle relationship including God, the husband, and the wife. Governmental laws help protect the marriage.

Notice how each person is interrelated to the other two partners.

* God's Design of Marriage

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Mark 10:9). -By Jesus

Every marriage is spiritual in nature because of God's declaration. In Mark 10:9 Jesus states that every marriage has been joined together by God. No person should treat marriage as a mere man-made union.

Good marriages follow God's design.

Bad marriages _____ God's design.

Mediocre marriages have not _____ embraced God's design.

* We can assume four things from the Bible.

- ✦ God wants to build great marriages.
- ✦ God has a way to restore a broken marriage.
- ✦ God works with those who are listening to Him.
- ✦ God leads us back by living by His design.



* Hopelessness

There are many statements that lead you and I to give up hope in some aspect of our marriages. What are some of the ones that lurk in your mind?

These thoughts are from the evil one (temptations). His goal is to make you give up !

* Making a 'Hope List'

Assignment: Start writing down your 'hope list.'

Write down three or four areas in which you have given up hope in your marriage relationship. Write them as positively as possible.

✦ How do you identify these areas of lost hope?

✦ Isn't it too late?

✦ Do we all have areas of hopelessness?

✦ Isn't it dangerous to focus on discontent?

* Truth: Great Marriages Happen!

Four special biblical truths to strengthen our confidence in marriage.

- ✦ 1) _____ designed marriage (Genesis 2:18-22).
- ✦ 2) God designed plurality: male and _____ (Genesis 2:23).
- ✦ 3) God designed _____ (Genesis 2:24) .
- ✦ 4) God designed His glory to be revealed in marriage (Genesis 2:25) .

➡ Personal Project

- **Wait:** Don't talk right away about your list of how your marriage could be better.
- **Confess:** Confess the areas of your marriage in which you have given up hope.
- **Ask:** Ask the Lord to restore hope to the very areas that you have given up hope.
- **Anticipate:** Give God the opportunity to answer your prayer in His time and way.
- **Share:** If your spouse asks what is on your list, share in a prayerful way.

* Abraham: A _____ Hope (Romans 4:18-21)

* Summary: The Beauty of Marriage

- ✦ God still works miracles.
- ✦ God wants to work with us to build a great marriage.
- ✦ Building great marriages is a process needing time.
- ✦ It takes time because we need to be changed.

God is a God of miracles.

Change some-times requires a long process.

Hope assures a persistent faith.

BGM #1 Answers Restoring Hope To Your Marriage
The Secular View
The Biblical View
Bad marriages do not follow God's design.
Mediocre marriages have not fully embraced God's design.
#1 God designed marriage (Genesis 2:18-22)
#2 God designed plurality: male and female
#3 God designed oneness (Genesis 2:24)
Abraham: A Persevering Hope