

Understanding the Picture of Marriage — From Beginning to End

by Cindy Zeigler

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone;
I will make him a helper suitable for him."
(Gen. 2:18)

From the UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Welcome

Welcome to this Bible study entitled *Understanding the Picture of Marriage — from Beginning to End*. In these upcoming ten weeks of study, it is my hope and expectation that you will be able to view marriage more from God's perspective than perhaps you have been able to before.

We live in a time where there are more books and seminars on the subject of marriage available to the Church than at any other time in history. In today's society — even in the Church — marriage is looked upon *much too casually*! Studies show that Christian marriages end in divorce at the same rate (or, in some studies, even at a greater rate) than do marriages in secular society. How sad!

If Christians had a better grip on God's perspective of marriage, they would undoubtedly take marriage more seriously — both prior to getting married, and thereafter as well. Thus, this study will reveal that which Scripture has to say about marriage — from Genesis to Revelation. The focus of this study will not be on the roles of husbands and wives, per se, though that is necessary to understand; nor will the focus of study be on relationship skills and/or how to make a marriage better. A person could find those types of studies elsewhere. Rather, in this study, we will simply go to God's Word, beginning in Genesis, view the details of *the first marriage*, and build *the picture of marriage* from there, just as it is given in Scripture. Then, with the picture of marriage firmly planted in your mind, the Holy Spirit will be able to reveal how and why marriage is held in such high regard in God's eyes. We need to know and understand the high regard God places on marriage, and have the same regard ourselves. *Understanding marriage from God's perspective is far more important than anything man could even say or write on the subject!*

Understanding the Picture of Marriage is one study amidst several studies in the *Understanding the Bible Study Series*. Foundational truths for any of the studies available in this series are laid down in the introductory study entitled *Understanding the Bible — Biblical Survey*. It is strongly recommended that you first go through the Biblical Survey study before you begin this or any of the other studies available in the series. The reason for this recommendation is that the Biblical Survey study *builds the big picture of Scripture* from Genesis to Revelation. Understanding the big picture of Scripture is essential if you are to see how the various Biblical sections fit together into the whole (including the picture of marriage). Thus, the recommendation.

At any rate, I welcome you.

Cindy

