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People working together to proclaim the Gospel

*"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"*

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## Why Marry?

**June is the time for weddings. Thousands will - despite the decline in its popularity - 'tie the knot' in church or office. Why bother?**

by James McBride

On the face of it marriage seems unnecessary. Mankind can *'be fruitful and multiply'* without the benefit of a marriage certificate. And so, too, sexual pleasure. And millions of co-habitees indeed 'don't bother'.

But these factors are not what marriage is about! Somehow the notion of a man and a woman getting together, formalized by that certificate, has gripped all nations throughout history.

### **Divine Plan**

Only the intellectually blind and willingly ignorant can conjure up the weird notion that man 'evolved' from an inert rock or drifted to Earth as a speck of plasma from an alien planet. No. We don't derive from blind chance but we are the product of direct divine creation.

*And we are created with purpose.* At the time of His choosing God created the physical universe as the foundation on which to work out the plan for which He had long prepared. He created mankind - the 'clay model' from which to develop Spirit beings in every way like Himself.

Rather than creating a hermaphrodite - a combination of both sexes - to procreate, God made us *'male and female'*. For, He said: *"It is not good for man to be alone - I will make him a suitable helper, completing him"* (Genesis 2:18). Thus He made woman - equal but different.

### **Companions**

Man - and woman - are of themselves incomplete. Only the union of the two as *'one flesh'* (v. 24) and over a lifetime enables the companionship that properly reflects the Creator's purpose. It is a *covenant* - an agreement with mutual obligations and privileges. Any other form of 'living together' pro-tem is *sinful*, and heaps up trouble upon trouble - as is clear from the many mixed-up relationships all around us.

As marriage - the uniting of a man and a woman for life - is a divine institution (and the very first institution) its rejection is a rejection of God Himself. Few understand its importance both for personal fulfilment and also for national stability. Fewer still understand it is a prototype for the forthcoming unbreakable marriage between Jesus and the church.

Will you this year be a 'June bride and groom'? Understand that you embark on a lifetime commitment with implications for your own future - from here to eternity.

[Request the article: *Spend a Lifetime - Together*]

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