

## The One: The Plunge Ephesians 5:22-33

Marriage is an amazing part of many people's lives. However, we often make the mistake of jumping in unprepared. Join us as we look at the picture of God's design for marriage.

### The Perspective

1. The Design
2. The Break
3. The Picture

The notion that the best marriages are those that bring satisfaction to the individual may seem counterintuitive. After all, isn't marriage supposed to be about putting the relationship first? Not anymore. For centuries, marriage was viewed as an economic and social institution, and the emotional and intellectual needs of the spouses were secondary to the survival of the marriage itself..

But in modern relationships, people are looking for a partnership, and they want partners who make their lives more interesting . . . [who] help each of them attain valued goals.

Tara Parker-Pope, NY Times Columnist

...Ironically, this newer view of marriage actually puts a crushing burden of expectation on marriage and on spouses in a way that more traditional understandings never did. And it leaves us desperately trapped between both unrealistic longings for and terrible fears about marriage

Tim Keller, Pastor, Author

### Preparation for Marriage

1. Spiritual Preparation
2. Financial Preparation

### The Plunge

1. Commit

Top 10 List: For the record, here are the 10 top reasons why men are "slow to commit:"

1. They can get sex without marriage more easily than in times past.
2. They can enjoy the benefits of having a wife by cohabiting rather than marrying
3. They want to avoid divorce and its financial risks.
4. They want to wait until they are older to have children.
5. They fear that marriage will require too many changes and compromises.
6. They are waiting for the perfect soul mate, and she hasn't yet appeared.
7. They face few social pressures to marry.
8. They are reluctant to marry a woman who already has children.
9. They want to own a house before they get a wife.
10. They want to enjoy single life as long as they can.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=97920>