

FRIENDSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS & MARRIAGE

“The Wedding Ceremony”

Genesis 2:18, 21-24, Prov. 18:22

This teaching is designed to **UNDERSTAND** the **TRADITIONAL** wedding ceremony for Believers; its components and its purpose.

I have selected the scripture reference from Genesis 2:18, 21-24. It states “And the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmeet for him”. The helpmeet specifically means *a helper comparable to him*. This suggests to me that the woman, although generally considered to be the weaker vessel (I Peter 3:7), she is certainly not considered to be inferior to him. I Peter 3:7 declares that the man and woman are heirs **TOGETHER** of the grace of life.

Furthermore, Genesis 2:21-24 describes how God made the woman out of the rib He had taken from the man while Adam slept. Adam then said “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. Therefore shall a man **LEAVE** his father and his mother and **CLEAVE** (or be joined) unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh”.

The GATHERING: This is the portion of the ceremony where the officiant basically describes what is about to happen to the general congregation. The “Dearly Beloved” address is designed to explain what marriage is and that that the couple is about to be married. It is at this time where the officiant will ask whether there are any persons present who can show “**JUST CAUSE**” why the couple should not marry. If there is no objection, the congregation is told to forever hold their peace.

The next component is:

THE CHARGE: This is said **DIRECTLY** to the couple who are to be married. They are given an opportunity to admit any **LAWFUL** reason why they cannot marry. They are also cautioned that their marriage is not lawful if they do not confess it. If there is no response from either party the ceremony continues on.