

## God's purposes for marriage

For God, the marriage covenant fulfills his purpose for marriage. There are three things that God accomplishes through marriage that he created us for and with.

(1) **Sex:** We are created with the longing for the other sex, not merely to satisfy the sex drive but also to fulfil an appetite for intimacy. As it was not good for Adam to be alone, it is also not good for us to be alone. We need to be in the lasting environment with someone. Short term disposable relationship cannot satisfy this desire. We cannot just get intimacy via therapy sessions or by exploring another person's body. It is a fruit of lifetime of belonging to another person.

(2) **Growth:** We are created to grow or for growth and marriage is an invitation to grow up to become mature. Being in marriage, you position yourself in a state of being mentally, psychologically, physically and financially fit to be a parent to somebody. Being a parent means you cease being a child and accept adult responsibility. This demands growth.

(3) **Love:** We are created to love, and marriage is a great place to learn to love. To love is to put your partner's needs before your own. To love is to make an unconditional commitment to an imperfect human being. Many people marry to be loved not to love.

Steward says that the purposes of marriage are:

- (a) sexual union;
- (b) an intimate relationship; and
- (c) companionship