

## 5 Stages of Coupling The Purpose of Coupling

**Overview** – This morning we want to start a two-part series on the 5 Stages of Coupling for Marriage. America has a divorce crisis. We talk about the crisis, but we don't get to the root of the reason for divorce, which is how we couple for marriage. In American culture everyone dates before they marry. Therefore, if we fix how we date we will fix our divorce problem.

**Scripture: Matthew 19:3-5 (NKJV)**

### In the beginning

1. God made them male and female – v.4
2. Male and female joined together (coupling) – v.5
3. Bound to a lifelong commitment called marriage – v.5

**Quotes:** (1) We don't have a **divorce** problem we have a **coupling** problem. (2) Coupling is how a male and a female come together. (3) Coupling is **organic, instinctive, and impulsive**.

PT1. Purpose for coupling is **marriage**

(a) Marriage is between a **male and female – v. 4 – v.5**

**Quotes:** (1) This is not homophobic, hate or intolerance statement against homosexuals or same-sex marriages. (2) This is my **biblical** interpretation for a man and a woman **not my personal belief** how I think you should live your life. (3) If I'm wrong its by **biblical interpretation** and not **homophobia** or my **intolerance** for someone's sexual orientation. (4) Everyone has my **acceptance** as a human created by God, but you may not have my **biblical approval** for your lifestyle.

(b) How male and females couple:

- Arrangements – how you get together
  - 1) Parents (prearranged)
  - 2) Social (workplace, clubs, stores, friends, and etc.)
  - 3) Dating (spending time together)
- Preferences – law of attraction – a) physical b) personality c) character d) emotional e) availability f) occupational g) shared interests
- Strategies – how to flirt, date, select, and pair-off

PT2. Primary drivers for coupling are **love** and **sex**

(a) Companionship (to love and be loved) Reference: Genesis 2:18

(b) Procreation (sex drive) – Genesis 1:28

**Quote:** God's destination for coupling is marriage, so you can **properly harness** your **sex** drive in the proper manner.

PT3. Process of coupling comes through **dating**

**Dating** is a man and a woman meet for a **period of time to gather data** about each other, so they can make an **informed** decision about their **compatibility** for marriage.

**Quote:** Marriage is **not** based solely upon **compatibility** but a **lifelong commitment** you make that **binds** you to stay together.

The first exclusive relationship God created was for marriage. Therefore, you do not enter an exclusive relationship without the intent for it to end in marriage. When you're in an **exclusive** relationship and you do not know its intentions, **abuse** is **inevitable**. – Reference: Matthew 19:5

**Abuse** means to be *improperly* used.

**Abusive Dating:** When you're in an exclusive relationship without intentions of marriage. You are improperly using one another mentally, emotionally and sexually without the commitment of marriage. When the relationship ends it will be just like a divorce.

**Healthy Dating – Dating rules** that **direct** the relationship in the way it should go and **protect** you and the person you're dating from improperly using one another in the dating relationship.

### **TAKEAWAY:**

The purpose for coupling:

PT1. Purpose for coupling is marriage

PT2. Primary drivers for coupling are love and sex

PT3. Process of coupling comes through dating

**NEXT WEEK:** The Five Stages of Coupling

### **Life Group Discussions**

1. Discuss dating and marriage crisis
2. Discuss the purpose for coupling
3. Discuss the drivers for coupling
4. Discuss a compatible verse committed relationship
5. Discuss the difference between an abusive and a healthy dating relationship