

HANDOUT MODULE ONE

What the Bible says about marriage

What is love

- **Love** is patient and kind
- **Love** does not envy
- **Love** does not boast
- **Love** is not self-seeking. it is directed at others and not meeting your needs
- **Love** is not easily angered or rude
- **Love** keeps no record of wrongs
- **Love** protects the self-worth of the spouse
- **Love** perseveres – however difficult the circumstances
- **Love** trusts – is not suspicious

What the Bible says about Marriage

- Genesis 2:18, 21–24 Marriage is God’s idea for both companionship and intimacy
- Exodus 20:14 husbands and wives are to be sexually faithful to each other in marriage
- Proverbs 31:10 a strong marriage is precious
- Ecclesiastes 9:9 Marriage is a lifelong commitment
- Malachi 2:13–14 Marriage is not an agreement which can be terminated but a lifelong covenant designed by God in which the husband and wife are bonded together forever
- 1 Corinthians 7:1–2 This verse indicates that it is better to marry than to be sexually immoral
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 You should not marry an unbeliever
- Ephesians 5: 22, 25 and 31–32 Wives should be willing to submit while husbands are urged to lay down their lives in sacrificial love and protection.
- 1 Peter 3:7 husbands and wives are different but equal partners

In summary, the Bible teaches that:

- ‘A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh’. (Genesis 2:24), This is a covenant until death separates you
- Marriage is the closest possible human relationship making a new family unit
- God uses marriage to teach us about unconditional love, forgiveness and patience, faithfulness, gentleness..... in short to mould us into becoming more like Christ