

Catholic Apologetics on Marriage using **Genesis 2:18-24**, **Psalm 128:1-6**, and **Mark 10:2-16** provides a strong biblical foundation for understanding the **sacrament of marriage** and the **indissolubility** of this union. These readings emphasize the **divine origin of marriage**, its **permanence**, and the **blessings** that come from a faithful and God-centered family.

1. Genesis 2:18-24 – The Divine Institution of Marriage

In **Genesis 2**, we see God's **original plan** for marriage. When God says, "It is not good for the man to be alone," He is emphasizing that humans are created for **relationship** and **companionship**. The creation of **Eve from Adam's rib** highlights the **equality** and **complementarity** of man and woman.

- **Apologetic Point:** Marriage is not a human institution, but a **divine ordinance**. God created man and woman to be **united** in a lifelong partnership, where they become "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This shows that marriage is not simply a **contract** but a **covenant** designed by God.
- **Defense:** In Catholic apologetics, this passage refutes modern views that see marriage as purely a social contract subject to change. The Catholic Church teaches that the union of man and woman reflects the **image of God** and carries **sacramental grace**. Marriage is **exclusive** and **permanent** because it is rooted in God's eternal plan, not just in human custom or law.

2. Psalm 128:1-6 – The Blessings of a Faithful Marriage

This psalm speaks of the **joy** and **blessings** that come from a **faithful family** rooted in **fear of the Lord**. The man who walks in God's ways will see blessings in his **home** and **family** life. His **wife** is described as a fruitful vine, and his **children** as olive plants—symbols of **life**, **prosperity**, and **peace**.

- **Apologetic Point:** A **God-centered marriage** is a source of blessing and fruitfulness. Catholic teaching on marriage emphasizes that the **procreative** and **unitive** aspects of marriage are part of God's design. The **fruitfulness** of marriage is not limited to physical offspring but also includes the **spiritual** fruit that comes from a life lived according to God's will.
- **Defense:** This psalm counters modern arguments that downplay the importance of the family or separate marriage from its **spiritual** and **procreative** purposes. The Church defends marriage as a **vocation** where spouses are called to help each other grow in **holiness** and to bring **new life** into the world, in accordance with God's plan.

3. Mark 10:2-16 – Jesus Reaffirms the Indissolubility of Marriage

In **Mark 10**, the Pharisees ask Jesus about **divorce**, hoping to test Him. Jesus refers back to **Genesis 2** to emphasize that **from the beginning** God intended marriage to be an **indissoluble union**. He explains, "What God has joined together, let no one separate" (Mark 10:9), reaffirming that **divorce** was a concession due to the **hardness of hearts**, but not part of God's original plan.

- **Apologetic Point:** This passage strongly supports the **Catholic Church's teaching** that marriage is a **lifelong** and **indissoluble** covenant. Jesus makes it clear that marriage is not meant to be dissolved at human discretion. This passage underscores the sacramental nature of marriage, where **God** is the one who joins the couple together.
- **Defense:** Catholic apologetics uses this passage to explain why the Church does not recognize divorce as ending a sacramental marriage. Marriage is a **covenant** reflecting the **unbreakable bond** between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:25-32). While civil law may allow for divorce, the Church teaches that a valid sacramental marriage cannot be **broken** by human authority because it was **instituted by God**.

Connecting the Readings to Catholic Marriage Doctrine:

1. **Genesis 2:18-24** shows that marriage is part of God's original plan and is rooted in the **creation** of man and woman for each other.
2. **Psalms 128:1-6** illustrates the **blessings** that come from living out a **faithful marriage** centered on **God's ways**.
3. **Mark 10:2-16** reinforces the **permanence** and **sacredness** of marriage, as Jesus clarifies that **divorce** was never part of God's design.

Summary:

- **Marriage** is **divinely instituted** (Genesis 2:18-24), meant to be **fruitful** and a source of blessings (Psalms 128:1-6), and is a **permanent, indissoluble covenant** (Mark 10:2-16).
- The **Catholic Church** teaches that marriage is a **sacrament**, meaning it is not merely a legal contract but a **holy covenant** that confers **grace** and reflects the **love of Christ** for His Church.
- **Divorce** goes against God's original plan for marriage, and the Church defends the **indissolubility** of the marriage bond based on Jesus' teachings in Mark.

By grounding marriage in Scripture, the Church defends its teachings against contemporary challenges and promotes marriage as a **sacred vocation** aimed at **holiness, faithfulness, and fruitfulness**.