

Marriage In The Home

Introduction. God's great wisdom is beautifully portrayed in many realms of activity, including nature (Proverbs 3:19), the church (Ephesians 3:10), and the making of man and woman in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27). From the very beginning God wisely provided marriage and the home for humanity's good. Marriage is a mark of God's beautiful wisdom.

Marriage can be beautiful as young people make their plans to enter its blessed relationship. Marriage can be beautiful in its beginning, its continuation, and at its close when death honorably ends the sacred tie that binds human hearts together. However, this beauty can only be achieved by respecting God and His will.

Dating within a Christless framework grows into a marriage at a Christless altar, blossoms into a Christless honeymoon, and continues in a Christless home. That lifestyle is a basic cause for unhappy marriages, untrained children, and ultimately broken homes.

I. ***Marriage Is Divine In Origin***

- A. Unbelieving sociologists propose the idea that we can never know for sure how marriage came into existence. This is understandable from their viewpoint because they reject the only book that sheds light on the beginning of marriage. Marriage did not first exist in the minds of men. It was not by an experiment conducted by two consenting adults.
- B. God is the first force in marriage (Genesis 2:24-25). God made men and women to where we could satisfy each other's physical and spiritual needs. This separates humanity from the lower forms of life and is one of the strongest reasons to refute the idea that man's family tree has reptiles, amphibians, and simpler forms of life on its lowest branches. Young men and women who reject the Genesis account of how marriage began are not likely to respect what the Lord said about the duration of the marital bond.

II. ***Marriage Is Designed For Man And Woman***

- A. In September 1971, a Methodist minister performed the first same-sex marriage. Now, ten countries and six states allow same-sex marriage. This act endorsed the very action which prompted the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 7).
- B. Lot made the tragic mistake of pitching his tent toward Sodom (Genesis 13:12-13). It becomes even more of a tragedy when Sodom's standards become the accepted guidelines for a so-called marriage union between those of the same sex.
- C. Everything the Bible teaches relative to marriage makes it absolutely impossible for two members of the same sex to marry (Romans

1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). Same-sex marriage is just another tool for Satan to annihilate the home as God would have it.

III. ***Marriage Is Intimate In Its Relationship***

- A. God took a bone from Adam's side to make a suitable mate for him (Genesis 2:21-22). God could have put an animal to sleep and fashioned a mate from an animal, but He chose not to do so. Each time Adam looked at Eve he would see a part of himself (Genesis 2:23). Likewise, when people think of a husband and wife they think of two people who live intimately with each other.
- B. Marriage is designed to accommodate one of the strongest desires known to man -- sexual desire. God made provision for it to be enjoyed in only one relationship (1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4). Within marriage, the sexual relationship is sacred and beautiful, with no shame attached to it. Though physical in nature, it also has a spiritual dimension provided by two hearts deeply in love and two lives closely entwined (Ephesians 5:31).
 - 1. The intimacy of marriage is also beautifully illustrated by the procreation of children (Genesis 1:28; 8:16-17).
 - 2. God has always had one approved way of continuing the human race. He has always intended that children should be conceived within a marriage and be born a part of the family framework.
 - 3. The physical union, conception, and birth of children are some of the most rewarding moments in marriage.
- C. The intimacy of marriage is also seen in the fact that it transcends all other human relationships (Genesis 2:24). Our love for God transcends all other loves (Matthew 10:37), but on earth our love for our mate should be the strongest love (Ephesians 5:28). Their love for each other should be stronger than their love for parents or for even their children. A person can be a far better parent by properly loving his spouse.

IV. ***Marriage Is Mature And Mutual In Its Responsibilities***

- A. Marriage is not for children (1 Corinthians 13:11). They are not prepared in years, training, or experience to cope with the mature decisions that have to be made daily by married couples.
- B. Parents must let their children be children. Pushing them toward adulthood and letting them date too soon will create children who begin to take liberties with each other's bodies while they are too young and lack competent decision-making abilities. Fornication and pregnancy may be the next chapter in an already heart-breaking book.

- C. Marriage means earning a living, taking care of children, being the head and guide of a home, making decisions of where to live, worship, work, etc.
 - 1. Sometimes boys and girls who are not old enough to even be dating think they are so madly in love that marriage has to occur immediately.
 - 2. They are like children who request an expensive toy -- the price tag does not bother them at all. Maturity is guaranteed to produce better and more lasting marriages.
- D. Furthermore, marriage cannot be entered with a selfish intent. The concept of each individual should be, "Think not what this marriage can do for me but what can I do for this marriage." It is more blessed to give in marriage than to receive (Acts 20:35). As a rule the person who gives most to the marriage will receive the most in return.

V. ***Marriage Is Monogamous In Its Character***

- A. When God planned the making of woman He did not say, "I will make him some help meets for him." There was to be only one Eve for Adam and vice versa (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:1-4; 1 Corinthians 7:39). Marriage began with monogamy in Genesis 2 and was polluted by polygamy in Genesis 4.
- B. A brief survey of the Old Testament shows that Lamech, Abraham, Jacob, Elkanah, David, and Solomon all had multiple wives (Nehemiah 13:26). It is sad to see the most obvious lessons of history being frequently overlooked by succeeding generations of mankind (Romans 15:4).
- C. Where the laws of a land permit, men still have a plurality of wives. Laws of the land may allow this deviation from God's marriage law but God's law still stands: one man for one woman. There will be no separation, divorce, or subsequent adulterous marriages as long as both parties follow Jesus; and following Jesus means monogamy in marriage.

VI. ***Marriage Is Permanent In Its Duration***

- A. From the moment a man and woman enter into matrimony, God fully intends that union to be indissoluble except by death. God's word furnishes the cement which will keep the union firmly connected (Matthew 19:4-6). Stealing the affections of another's mate may be thrilling to the thief, but the theft is grievous in the sight of God (Exodus 20:17). Yet society looks on this type of robbery with little alarm.
- B. When we are married, we state the vow, "Until death do us part." This is a vow made to God, to each other, and to witnesses. Paul

emphasized the permanence of this vow, as we have seen in Romans and 1 Corinthians, and it affects society and the church in so many positive ways.

- C. With the divorce rate around 45-55% in the U.S., we need to be teaching our children that marriage is permanent in its duration. Either we have not been doing a very efficient job of conveying the importance of the marriage vows, or else our children have not been abiding by what they have learned. Either way, it is harming our society and churches.

VII. *Marriage Is Uplifting In Its Design*

- A. Men and women need worthwhile goals to furnish a purpose for life and to provide direction for their God-given energies. The most noble purposes and goals are found in marriage and the family (Proverbs 18:22).
- B. Marriage keeps men and women from living like animals of the field. The establishment of a home and rearing children offer some of the greatest incentives for right living, industrious work habits, and dedication to decency (1 Timothy 5:13-14). Husbands and wives have something else for which to live rather than pleasing themselves.
- C. Marriage and family responsibilities should bring out the best in people. How many people have you known to give up sinful actions and foolish indulgences when they get married and have children? A family that studies God's word together, prays together, works together, eats together, plays together, and worships together will provide a great inspiration for wholesome living.

Conclusion. The home travels a fast course toward destruction when Satan is in control. When Christ and the Bible are lifted up in the home, the home will be lifted up. The home with God in it will make for a good beginning, a successful continuing, and a crowning conclusion.