

MARRIAGE AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Marriage Is The Oldest Of All Earthly Institutions. It Is Designed By God. It Is So Designed That All Men In Every Culture Can Fulfill Its Demands And Enjoy Its Blessings. Marriage Is Not A Christian Institution Only, But Marriage Founded Upon Christian Principles Will Last And Glorify God.
- B. Marriage Is A Very Vital Subject To Every Man, Woman, Boy And Girl. Why? Marriage Is The Foundation Of The Home, The Society, The Nation And Therefore, The World.
 - 1. Every person has a right to know the joy of a Christian home.
 - 2. Every child deserves to have a home where mother and daddy love him and one another.
 - 3. Every potential marriage candidate needs to know what marriage is and the responsibilities associated with the relationship.

NOTE: Marriage can be sweet or sad; a vestibule of heaven or a foretaste of hell.

- C. MAKE MARRIAGE WORK. NEVER ENTER INTO MARRIAGE WITH THOUGHTS OF DIVORCE IF IT DOES NOT WORK OUT. WORK OUT ALL PROBLEMS. DECIDE NOW TO MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE WORK.

II. AIM.

- A. To Examine The Importance And The Design Of God-ordained Marriages.
- B. To Exhort All To Honor Their Marriage Vows According To The Teaching Of Christ.

III. OUTLINE.

- A. MARRIAGE IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT IS:

1. The second most important relationship into which a person will ever enter, the first being the spiritual covenant made with God which is the "new birth." (*John 3:3-5; Rom. 6:1-6; Titus 3:3-6*)
2. Associated with the greatest acts of God.
 - a. His creative design. (*Gen. 1:27-28*) - "Male and female." (*Gen. 2:18, 21-24*) - God made a woman and brought her to man.
 - b. His plan of redemption. (*Gen. 12:1-3 cf. Gal. 3:16*)
 - c. His relation to Israel. (*Ezek. 16:1ff*)
 - d. His relation to the church. (*Eph. 5:22-31*)
 - e. His bride (the church) must be morally pure. (*1 Cor. 6:12-20*) Pure because impurity would constitute spiritual adultery.
3. Designed by God to:
 - a. Provide companionship. (*Gen. 2:18*)
 - b. Procreate the human race. (*Gen. 1:28; 9:1; Psa. 127:3-5; 1 Tim. 5:14*)
 - c. Prevent fornication. (*1 Cor. 7:1-4*)
 - 1) Sexual pleasure is to be enjoyed only in the marriage bond.
 - 2) Sex belongs to the marriage relationship. Why? To prevent the sin of illicit sexual relations, i.e. fornication.
 - d. Present man and woman with a meaningful LIFE-TIME UNION. (*Cf. Rom. 7:1-3 - Note context*)

B. WHAT CONSTITUTES A SCRIPTURAL MARRIAGE?

1. Some things which do not constitute a scriptural marriage.
 - a. A legal contract only - if so, then one could marry as often as the civil law allowed. (*Cf. Matt. 5:31-32*)
 - b. Love only. What is love?

- c. An engagement. All engaged persons do not always marry.
 - 1) Engagement does not equal marriage.
 - 2) The liberties of marriage are not to be taken in an engagement. (*Heb. 13:4*)
 - d. Sexual intercourse. Marriage is much more than a physical union. If this were true fornication would be impossible.
 - e. Marriage is much more than any one of its prerequisites.
2. Some things which do constitute a scriptural marriage.
- a. It must be a covenant made by two people (one man and one woman) to live together until death separates them. (*Rom. 7:1-4*)
 - b. Both parties must be physically capable of rendering unto the other his/her sexual needs. (*1 Cor. 7:1-4*)
 - c. Both must have reached the age of puberty in body.
 - d. Both must be mentally capable to understand and make this union.
 - e. Both must freely give their consent.
 - f. Both must be free of any/all ties of wedlock.
 - g. It is God who "joins together" the couple making this agreement. (*Cf. Matt. 19:3-9*)
- C. THE TEACHING OF CHRIST CONCERNING MARRIAGE. (*Read Matt. 5:31-32; Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 10:2; Luke 16:18*)
- 1. "In the beginning..." God intended for there to be one man and one woman for life.
 - 2. The "it" in *Matt. 19:8*, shows that God never intended nor wanted divorce from the very beginning of the marriage institution.
 - 3. God is the one who joins male and female together. Let not man put asunder what God hath joined together.

4. Jesus appeals to the ultimate high ideal of God. Man's greatest joy and relationship can only be realized by following God's plan.
5. Jesus in His teachings:
 - a. Gives no place for trial marriages.
 - b. Makes no allowance for free love arrangements.
 - c. Does not make provisions for polygamous relations.
 - d. Opens no gate for "easy divorce."
 - e. Taught that marriage was a one man/one woman relationship that was to last for life, the only exception being fornication (sexual immorality).

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. The Foundation For Strong Marriages Is Proper Teaching In The Home Both By Precept And Practice.
 1. Make the marriage Christian. Practice the "golden rule." (*Matt. 7:12*)
 2. Pick your marriage partner from a "good patch." (You don't go to the junk yard to buy a good car.)
 3. Paul's teaching:
 - a. Mutual love and respect between husband and wife. (*Eph. 5:22-25, 33*)
 - b. Selflessness that thinks of the other mate first and sacrifices for his/her good. (*Eph. 5:21-22, 28-30*)
 - c. The full commitment of one's life and body for the resulting oneness of love and service. (*Eph. 5:25-30; 1 Cor. 7:4*)
 - d. An attachment to one another that would exclude all thought of sexual immorality - NO THIRD PARTIES! (*Cf. Eph. 5:5, 31; 2 Cor. 11:2*)
- B. Let Marriage Be Honored By All. (*Heb. 13:4*) Marriage Is God-designed, Therefore Respect It And Receive The Blessings Of That Holy Union.