

Marriage: Some Basic Concepts

Introduction:

- 1) Today seems like a good day to talk about marriage and family.
- 2) First, today is Mother's Day and second, this week there has been a tremendous amount of discussion regarding same-sex marriage.
- 3) While this is not the place for political discussions and the Lord's Day takes precedence over Mother's Day, the Bible has some things to say about marriage and I want us to consider (be reminded of) some basic concepts.

I. THERE IS A STANDARD.

A. God Originated Marriage and the Family.

1. When questioned about divorce the Lord took man back to the beginning. **Mt. 19:3-6**
2. It was God who said, "Not good that the man should be alone." **Gen. 2:18**
3. And the companionship problem was not solved by an animal. **Gen. 2:19-24**
4. That God made them male and female and capable of bearing children means He intended social units larger than just husband and wife. **Gen. 1:27f; 3:16**
5. Don't fall for the notion that marriage is a societal arrangement dictated by people's evolving needs and one that can be defined by human society.

B. The Almighty Has Given Us Instructions.

1. Not only did God originate marriage and family, but He has given instructions. **Gen. 1:28; 2:24; 3:16-19; Eph. 5:22ff**
2. Most people can appreciate the wisdom of an owner's manual supplied by the manufacturer.
 - a. It just makes sense to listen to the One who designed us.
 - b. But there is a big difference between an owner's manual and the Bible.
 - 1) Most of us have sometimes gone against the manual.
 - a) To remove the blades from my old Murray lawnmower was a long, complicated process according to the manual, so I just parked over the ditch and stuck my hand under it instead.
 - 2) With marriage and family, we may think we have a better or simpler way, but when God speaks we must listen. **Mt. 7:21; 19:6**

II. ALLOW GOD TO DEFINE MARRIAGE.

A. Marriage.

1. As a society we debate about same-sex marriage, whether marriage is even necessary, and polygamy is debated in some societies.
2. God defined marriage in the beginning when He created one female to be with the one male.
3. Jesus made it clear that two, not two or more, become one flesh. **Mt. 19:4-6**
4. The sexual relationship outside marriage is wrong and anything other than one man and one woman is a violation of the plan. **Heb. 13:4**
5. But as I state things with which everyone probably agrees, let's realize that we must be serious about the one man and one woman, not one man and one woman after another.

B. Marriage Roles.

1. While God does not provide finely detailed instructions or delineations of the roles (as in who must mop, weed eat, paint, etc.), He does define the roles for us in ways we are not to ignore.
2. From the beginning the wife was made to be the helper. **Gen. 2:18**
 - a. Meet, comparable, suitable, fit for.
3. More is said about the roles in **Gen. 3:16-19**.
4. The most lengthy discussion of this is found in **Eph. 5:22-33**.
5. The intent of this lesson is not to study these roles in detail, but to remind us all that God has spoken, therefore we cannot simply find the arrangement that "works for us."
 - a. Again, each couple has the right and responsibility to work out many of the details, but the divine definitions of the roles must be respected.

C. Parent-Child Relationships.

1. Again, all the details are not given us, but the general principles are set forth. **Eph. 6:1-4**
2. Don't allow society to overall rule God's definition of good discipline and training.

D. Sexual Morality.

1. There was a time when most people in this country viewed the following as immoral: premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality and even most divorce.
2. More and more society's definitions change, to the point now that...
 - a. Few people think twice about premarital relations.
 - b. Divorce has no stigma attached to it.
 - c. While homosexuality is condemned by some, even many churches now accept it.

- d. Adultery is the only one of these still seen as “wrong” by most people, but even then society will excuse it if the circumstances justify it.
3. It is imperative we continue to allow God to define morality. **Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:9f; Rom. 1:26f; Mt. 19:9**
4. Despite the president’s explanation, God-defined morality does not evolve.

III. MARRIAGE IS GOOD. Pr. 18:22

A. **Though Not Required.**

1. Some will never be able to marry and some may choose not to marry. **Mt. 19:12**
2. During a present distress, Paul even recommended against it. **1 Cor. 7:26, 1, 7f**
 - a. He did say that this was not a requirement.
3. Let’s not look on those who never marry, whether by choice or circumstances beyond their control, as somehow less than those who marry.

B. **For Companionship and Physical Pleasure.**

1. Not good to be alone. **Gen. 2:18**
 - a. Marriage satisfies this in ways no other companionship can. **Eccl. 4:9-12**
 - b. They are described as one flesh in several passages.
2. Marriage is the one lawful outlet for the natural sexual desires. **1 Cor. 7:1-5; cf. Pr. 5:15-20.**

C. **For Society.**

1. If we could persuade our society to return to one man for one woman for life, we would drastically cut poverty and have a major impact on government spending.
2. Around 40% of all children are born out-of-wedlock.
 - a. 20% of white children raised in single-parent homes.
 - b. Number rises to 50% for black children.
3. Death and uncontrollable circumstances are sometimes responsible for such, but who cannot see that this is not good for our society?
4. Women bear a disproportionate share of this burden in comparison to men, but the children pay the heaviest toll.

D. **Value Marriage.**

1. Let’s start by abolishing divorce. **Mt. 19:6, 9**

2. But let's do far more than stay married—let's value marriage as a favor from God and treat it (our spouses) as special. **1 Pet. 3:6f**
3. Let's take our divinely assigned roles seriously. Study **Eph. 5; 1 Pet. 3**; et al carefully, thoughtfully and make application.

Conclusion:

- 1) The God who created us established marriage as an institution for man's good and if we will treat it as He instructed it will be good.
- 2) In marriage we should be the people God commands simply because He commands it, but do realize that it will also be a blessing here in this life if we do as He expects.
- 3) As we close turn back with me to **Eph. 5**. As we read, take note of what He has done to make us His glorious church. **5:25-27**
- 4) Do you appreciate that sacrifice enough to be washed and cleansed?