

Biblical Marriage – Part 1 | 1/7/18

- Why did God institute marriage? What is its purpose?
 - This is answered for us in the very first book of the Bible in Genesis.
 - Marriage was not an invention of man, but it was of divine origin established at creation.
 - Its purpose was not to save money on taxes or to make living easier, but was instituted by God for our benefit.
 - **The Scriptures show us that God realized that man was not yet complete, that he was missing something.**
 - Genesis 2:19-20
 - “Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.**”
 - Genesis 2:18
 - “Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”
 - **God knew that man needed a compatible partner, not only for procreation but to truly make man “whole”.**
 - Women naturally are aware of this fact, that men are wholly incomplete without them 😊.
 - God created Eve and Adam immediately saw that she made him complete.
 - Genesis 2:22-23
 - “And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “**This at last** is ‘bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”
 - **Adam immediately was drawn to Eve, he understood the unity that they would have together. That he was now complete.**
 - And Adam said “Eve...you...complete...me”
 - Marriage brings unity.
 - The verse immediately following Adam’s joy for Eve, we are given a clear example of the unity of marriage.
 - Genesis 2:24
 - “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and **they shall become one flesh.**”
 - This verse describes marriage, it is a beautiful and Godly ordained relationship.
 - **The purpose and result of this marriage is unity.**
 - **Man and woman are drawn together by God through love, and are bound in perfect unity as one flesh.**
 - The importance of unity in marriage CANNOT be overstated.
 - Marriage combines a man and a woman into “one flesh”, they are no longer two people living separate lives but they are one.
 - This unity effects all areas of their lives from the physical to the spiritual.
 - **When we treat marriage as just a piece of paper with two people leading separate lives we are not following a biblical interpretation of marriage.**

- This is why there is a unity candle in most wedding ceremonies, it represents the biblical definition of unity.
 - **Would you agree that when you are married to the one whom God desired for you, that this makes you “complete”? If so in what way?**
 - **Describe what “unity” means to you in your marriage, either from a spiritual or worldly perspective.**
 - **What is the impact on a marriage if the unity that God intended isn’t followed?**
- Is marriage intended to be a permanent binding relationship?
 - We know that God has a divine and holy purpose for marriage, but what does the Scriptures say about divorce? Is marriage supposed to be permanent?
 - Matthew 19:3-6
 - “And the Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause? He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and **hold fast** to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.**”
 - **There are two very important truths from this passage that shows us God’s perspective on the binding relationship of marriage being permanent by design.**
 - The world today says you can marry and divorce every other week and its certainly rarely ever seen as being “permanent”.
 - Jesus Quotes from Genesis and we are again informed that a man is to “hold fast” to his wife.
 - This has the sense of being a covenant commitment or to be permanent or unbroken. So a man shall “permanently bind” to his wife.
 - God does not desire for us to marry/divorce because of how we felt when we woke up out of bed that day or simply out of convenience.
 - If a man and a woman marry it is supposed to be permanent (when it is a godly marriage).
 - Then Jesus tells us that if the marriage was joined by God, let not man separate.
 - Marriage is a God founded institute and He guides us into the marriages that He desires for us.
 - So, if we are in a God appointed marriage we most certainly must NOT break it.
 - **Although we can most certainly get ourselves into marriages that are ungodly.**
 - Though being the sinners that we are, we are most certainly capable of disobeying or ignoring God’s guidance and put ourselves into ungodly marriages.
 - When we do this, we will bear the consequences of that decision much like we do with our sins.
 - The Bible does provide “exceptions” for divorce in the case of sexual immorality.
 - The verse leading up to Jesus’s statement about marriage being binding He was asked about divorce.
 - Matthew 19:3
 - “And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?”
 - Jesus responds by quoting from Genesis and that we must not separate what God has joined.
 - Then Jesus adds an exception for sexual immorality.

- Matthew 19:9
 - “And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”
 - **Marriage is not only binding but it must be respected.**
 - Hebrews 11:4
 - “**Let marriage be held in honor among all**, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”
 - We must respect the marriage that God has biblically instated.
 - Unfortunately, this is not the case for a majority of the world especially in America. Divorce is just something that everyone does and that you are in the minority of you actually stay married to the same person
 - In a marriage that is not respected, there is an intentional lack of love and respect between the man and the woman.
 - **Why do you think God intended for marriage to be binding?**
 - **Why does there seem to be such a lack of respect for marriage in our world today?**
- Are we to enjoy our marriage?
 - While God created marriage for a Godly purpose, does this also mean that we are to enjoy it?
 - This may seem like an odd question, but the high divorce rate and marriages that are “on the rocks” seem to show that there are a vast number of marriages where enjoyment isn’t the word those couples would use.
 - **By looking at some of these you would think that marriage should even be completely avoided since they seemingly end up in pain and misery.**
 - However, this is certainly NOT God’s desire. He didn’t create marriage as punishment, it is a beautiful thing that we are to ENJOY!
 - **The Scriptures tell us to enjoy life with your spouse in whom you love.**
 - Ecclesiastes 9:9
 - “**Enjoy life with the wife whom you love**, all the days of our vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun”
 - Proverbs 18:22
 - “**He who finds a wife finds a good thing** and obtains favor from the LORD.”
 - **It doesn’t say that we are to “endure” or “survive” our marriage, but to enjoy it as God created it for our benefit.**
 - Marriage most certainly is a gift from God and it is a good thing. Therefore, in a godly marriage you WILL find joy.
 - In the Old Testament, the Israelite men who recently married, were told to take off 1 year to spend in happiness with his new wife.
 - Deuteronomy 24:5
 - “When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.
 - **There is great joy in a marriage when there is love.**
 - A key word in this verse that speaks to “why” there is enjoyment in our marriage is “love”.
 - Love is what God uses to bind us together, to direct us towards the one whom He has chosen for us.
 - With love the natural by product is joy, one cannot help but be happy and joyful.
 - And the opposite is true, when there is no love there is certainly no happiness.

- **When the marriage is of God's desire, love is guaranteed to be there.**
- God will bless and show favor on a godly marriage
 - The Proverbs verse tells us we obtain favor from the Lord in a godly marriage.
 - As it is a desire for God for us to find a spouse, when we do (and it is godly) He will bless it.
- **In what ways does marriage bring enjoyment into one's life?**
- **What is it about love that brings joy into a marriage?**