

A Biblical Overview of Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

- Our culture is changing & the church has not remained unaffected.
- To positively affect the trend, we must start with the basic unit of the family – marriage.
- Teaching on the home is “sound doctrine” (Tit. 2:1-6).
- Troubled families are always the result of one or more parties failing to follow God’s pattern (Jer. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- God ordained the home, government, and the church – departure from His instructions harms each institution.

The Beginning of the Family

- The creation was “good” (Gen. 1:1-25) – but it was not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18).
- It was not until after God created male and female, that it is said, “and indeed, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31).
- This proves that marriage central to God's plan for the creation, without which His plan cannot be worked out.
- The purposes for the institution of marriage...
- Propagate the human race – Gen. 1:28a.
- To subdue the earth (make subservient) – Gen. 1:28b.
- Companionship – Gen. 2:18.
- To avoid fornication – 1 Cor. 7:2.

Definition of Terms: Man & Wife

- “Man” is from the Hebrew “*ish*,” meaning “a man; a male person.”
- “Wife” is from “*isha*,” meaning a “a woman; a female.”
- Therefore, a man cannot be a wife, and neither can a woman be a husband; further, a man cannot marry a man, and neither can a woman marry a woman.
- Rom. 1:20-32 – shows that rejection of God & His standards resulted in sexual confusion (26-27) which, in turn, contributed to a host of other sins.

Definition of Terms: As A Noun

- As a noun, marriage is defined as “one flesh.”
- “Flesh” is from *basar*, meaning, "flesh; by extension body, person" thus, marriage is the cleaving together of one male with one female as one flesh, or one body.
- “Therefore” (2:24) reflects back on two facts:
- 1. That for Adam, after being introduced to and naming every animal, no helper was found that was suitable for him (2:20b).
- 2. That the woman was made of the same substance as the man

(2:21-23), as the only being designed to fill the role of a counterpart suitable for him.

Definition of Terms: As A Verb

- As a verb, marriage is defined as leaving (father and mother) and cleaving (to a woman/wife).
- The word “leave” is from *azab*, meaning to "loosen."
- A marriage creates a new family, not to be governed or controlled by another family (does not imply release from honoring father and mother - Exo. 20:12; Eph. 6:2).
- “Cleave” is from *dabak*, meaning to “cling, adhere” in the sense of a permanent bond.
- A male may leave his father and mother, but he is to “adhere” to a particular and individual female.
- This establishes the marriage relationship as closer, more intimate, and more durable, than the parent-child relationship which may be broken at an appropriate time in favor of marriage.

Marriage: To Be Held In Honor

- Among all relationships with a possible sexual aspect, only “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).
- Any possible sexual relationship occurring outside of the Bible's narrow definition of the marriage is defined as either fornication or adultery, both of which God will judge – 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

The Nature of Marriage... A Final Point

- The Lord Jesus reaffirmed God's original plan for marriage (Mat. 19:4-6), as did Paul (Eph. 5:31)...
- “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate,” makes it clear that God is the author of marriage, and that man has no authority to overrule God's marriage law.

Decision...

- Marriage is God's institution and God's design.
- Marriage can occur only between a man and a woman who are not otherwise disqualified.
- Marriage establishes a new family that, itself, is responsible and accountable to God.
- Marriage is intended to be held in honor by all people.
- Marriage was given for our good – and can produce good in the home, the church, and the nation...
- But, only if we will follow God’s pattern.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

2Pe 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1Co 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.