

The Christian View Of Marriage

Introduction.

I. This evening I would like to invite your attention to the reading of Genesis 2:18-24.

GEN 2:18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." 19 And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

I. These words are the inspired record of the beginning of marriage.

A. Marriage is a beautiful, sublime, sacred relationship from God.

B. In the last few decades there has been thousands of books and articles written concerning the marital relationship. Many of the things written have been very good. They are based on Bible principles and deserve to be read. Other things written have presented a very distorted and unwholesome view of marriage. As the result of some of these writings many do not have a proper view of marriage.

II. It is important that we discuss "The Christian View Of Marriage."

A. The Christian, unlike many others, has a very exalted view of the marriage relationship.

B. His view comes from the Bible - God's word.

I. **Desirable Relationship** - The Christian views marriage as a desirable relationship.

A. Marriage properly regarded brings immense happiness to man.

1. Man has many needs - food, clothing, shelter and other needs - but none is so great as his need for love and companionship.

2. In order that man might have this love and companionship, God instituted marriage in the very beginning. He declared, "It is not good for man to be alone." (Gen. 2:18)

B. In spite of the fact that God said marriage is good and ordained it for man, there are many people in the world who contend that marriage is not desirable. They argue that the unmarried state is much better and more exalted. They have taught or strongly inferred that marriage is a corrupt relationship.

1. **Martin Luther**, who was right about many things, was very wrong when he declared, "**It is impossible to pray upon the marriage bed.**"

2. The **Council of Trent** proclaimed: **“Whosoever shall say that the married state is to be preferred to a state of virginity, or celibacy, and that it is not better and more blessed to remain in virginity, or celibacy, than to be joined in marriage; let him be accursed!”**

C. Those who argue that the unmarried state is to be preferred over the married state often use 1 Corinthians 7 as a proof text. (1 Cor. 7:1, 8)

1CO 7:1 “It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

1CO 7:8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

1. Those who use these verses to prove that marriage is undesirable have perverted the scriptures by lifting these verses out of their proper context. At the time this epistle was written Christians were being persecuted. Paul stated that under these circumstances it would be better not to marry. (1 Cor. 7:26). **Explain**
2. Under different circumstances, **Paul taught marriage was desirable.** (1 Tim. 4:3; 1 Tim. 5:14).
3. The **Hebrew writer** said. (Heb. 13:4).
4. In Ephesians the 5th chapter Paul exalted the marriage relationship and gave these guidelines to preserve its sanctity and happiness. (Eph. 5:22-33).

EPH 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

5. One cannot read all of these teachings and principles without coming to the conclusion that marriage is a desirable relationship designed for the welfare of man.

II. Lawful Relationship To Fulfill One’s Desires - The Christian views marriage as the lawful relationship to fulfill one’s desires.

A. God has placed sexual desires in both men and women.

1. There is absolutely nothing wrong with these desires. God intends for us to have them and provided marriage that these desires might be fulfilled.
2. Listen to the words of Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 7:2-5.

1CO 7:2 But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote

yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

B. Today, we have what many call **the new morality**.

1. Many are teaching, on the college campuses and other places, the philosophy of “**permissive affection**.” What this means is the following: (1) Morals are a private affair; (2) Being in love justifies pre-marital and extra-marital sex; and (3) Nothing really is wrong as long as nobody get hurt. This philosophy is sweeping the world.
2. The **Kinsey report** and other reports indicate that most Americans are following this philosophy. It reported 50% of the women and 85% of the men have engaged in sexual immorality before marriage. Surveys show that about 50% of men and women have engaged in extra-marital relationships.

C. I am very surprised that so many intelligent people have fallen for this so-called new morality.

1. It is not really a new morality, but is the same old standard of barnyard morality. It is the same old barnyard morality that was practiced by Sodom, Corinth and other corrupt cities of the ancient world.
2. God does not approve of these desires being fulfilled outside of marriage because immorality leads to the disease, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, hasty marriages, divorce, emotional illness. Most of all degrades those involved and defiles the body, the sacred temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:18-20).
3. **Immorality is condemned by God** in both the Old and New Testaments. (Exod. 20:14; 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 5:19-21; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8).

III. **Proper Means Of Perpetuating The Human Race** - The Christian views marriage as the proper means of perpetuating the human race.

A. There are places in the world where children are bred like cattle and brought up by the state, but this diabolical practices certainly is not approved of God.

B. God said to the first couple. (Gen. 1:28).

1. After the flood God said to Noah and his sons and their wives. (Gen. 9:1).
2. God has ordained that marriage be the perpetrator of the race because children need more than food, clothing and shelter. Children need the love, the security and the training that only loving parents can provide.

IV. **A Life Long Relationship** - The Christian view marriage as a life long relationship.

A. Many today are speaking of “trial marriages” and trade wives about as often as they trade cars. They enter marriage with the idea that if it doesn’t work out that they can always get a divorce and marry someone else. Some when they say, “Until death do us part” mean “Until I get tired of you or find someone better.”

B. The Bible says nothing about trial marriages.

1. It says that “God hates putting away.” (Mal. 2:16).
2. Jesus said in answer to the question, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” (Matt. 19:6).
3. Paul said. (1 Cor. 7:39).

C. These scriptures show that God intends for one man and woman to live together in marriage for life. Trial marriages, divorce, just living together are hated by God. Remember the Bible shouts, “Flee fornication.” (1 Cor. 6:18).

COHABITATION FAILS AS A "TRIAL MARRIAGE"

(Via - USA Today, 7/13/98; Commercial Appeal (Memphis), 7/27/98)

Since 1970, the Census Bureau reports that the number of households made up of unmarried couples has grown eightfold.

By the time a woman reaches the age category of 30-34, 49% say they have lived with a man outside marriage.

But if more and more people are hoping that cohabitation improves their chances of being happily married later, evidence is rapidly mounting that indicates they will be disappointed. Columnist William R. Mattox, Jr, for example, cited recent research that challenges the wisdom of living together. Results include:

- a. A woman who is living with a man is more than twice as likely to wind up as a victim of domestic violence (Washington State University researcher Jan Stats).
- b. Women who are cohabiting suffer from depression at rates more than three times that of married women (National Institute of Mental Health).
- c. Sexual anxiety is more characteristic of this less permanent living arrangement, rather than sexual freedom, and the absence of an enduring commitment tends to actually hinder sexual satisfaction (UCLA researchers Stuart Perlman and Paul Abrahamson).
- d. Couples who lived together and then married report less satisfaction in their marriage than other couples (National Institute for Healthcare Research).
- e. Cohabiting couples who then get married have a significantly higher rate of divorce than those who did not live together first (University of Denver researcher Scott Stanley).

In his work, *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail*, University of Washington researcher John Gouman argues that many couples who cohabit do so because they already suspect that more permanent commitments are doomed to failure, and thus fulfill their own expectations.

V. **Union Under God** - The Christian views marriage as a union under God. (1 Cor. 11:3).

- A. The Christian recognizes God as supreme in his home and puts God first in all things.
- B. In the Christian home both the husband and the wife serve God. In the Christian home the children are raised to love God and be obedient to Him.

Conclusion.

- I. In closing I would like to give a paraphrase of a part of the traditional marriage ceremony that I think summarizes the Christian view of marriage:

“We promise to live together after God’s ordinance in the holy estate of marriage. We promise to love, to cherish, and to honor one another, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, in joy and in sorrow, and forsaking all others keep ourselves only unto each other so long as we both shall live.”

- II. The invitation is now extended to those who would like to be a part of the bride of Christ and live their lives for the God of heaven. Come submitting your heart to God in faith and baptism. Will you come as we stand and sing the song of invitation?

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