

Colossians 3.18,19

Marriage in Christ

Somerville, MA > will enter History books for Marriage Equality
 City Council Ordinance > Marriage can be up to 6 People
 No Discrimination in policing or employment on the basis of Polyamory

2015 Supreme Court Legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 States

JUSTICE ALITO: PROPHETIC > when he Asked in 2015...
 “What if there are 4 people, 2 men and 2 women?... they're all
 consenting adults, highly educated, they're all lawyers...
 What would be the logic of denying them the same right?

Old Book > Old Idea about Marriage
 Some say Narrow-minded, Repressive, Bigoted, even Hateful...

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and
 do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3.18,19

Colossians > Glorious Ideas: Christ, Salvation, Church
 Paul applies Eternal Truths > Marriage, Children, & Workplace

Marriage: Affects All of Us > Brot Into World thru FAMILY

All THOUGHT of Marriage, Now Married, Tried & Failed

Some WISH Were – Others GLAD they're NOT > VITAL Topic

Hot Topic - Related Questions - Divorce, Polygamy, Homosexuality Paul Polarizing

Figure: Radical & Revolutionary Ideas 1st C & 21st C

...in 21st century, we forget that (Paul's) model has always... been a challenge to the
 cultural norms of the day... (marriage) is a calling... Spirit-filled men and women
 specifically called to be worthy in their marriage relationships Paul Gardner

1. Marriage: Revealed in Scripture

New TOY - "for best results, follow instructions of manufacturer" MARRIAGE –

Creation of God / Owner's Manual – Holy Scripture

JESUS was asked Hard Questions about Marriage/ DIVORCE answered:

“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and
 female...” Matthew 19.4

Commonly CHARGED that Jesus NEVER talked about HOMOSEXUALITY What Jesus
DID here was ENDORSE

God's CREATION Plan for Marriage 1 Man / 1 Woman for LIFE

If Want to Understand Marriage - GO BACK TO BEGINNING

1st Book of BIBLE - SEE WHAT IT TEACHES

Begins with God's Benediction over ALL CREATION on 6th Day God saw all
that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1.31

God KNOWS WHAT is GOOD > Understands GOOD & EVIL

TREE of KNOWLEDGE of Good & Evil SYMBOLIZED His Authority

a. God Makes Perfect Partner

HE made ALL VERY GOOD / KNOWS Perfectly what IS Good, says:

Then the LORD God said, "It is *not good* that the man should be alone..." Genesis 2.18

NO Soul Mate for Adam – NO Intimate Life Partner – No Helpmeet

Man is a social being, made for fellowship, not power: he will not live until he loves,
giving himself away to another on his own level. Derek Kidner

Animals he Just NAMED will Not Fully Satisfy Need for COMPANION

God did not make a CLONE – Another Man – but True Companion

In being DIFFERENT they Truly MEET One Another's Needs...

1) Social v. 18 "not good for the man to be *alone*" Sad & Lonely Word

NO EVE > Sad & Lonely WORLD > ALL PEOPLE come from HER

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.
Genesis 3.20

"BEING Alone" – Never Good – Married or Single > Family, Friends, Church Pray that
Kalahikiola will be REAL FAMILY to One Another

2) Service Adam Created to WORK > Eve made to HELP him WORK

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2.15

Colossians Teaching on MARRIAGE Follows Unity of Church

Building UP Body of X – God’s 1st PRIORITY for Men & Women

IF U Marry should be SERVE God Better: Advance Kingdom of God

Looking 4 Husband / Wife? 1st Quality should be SERVANTHOOD

Wash Dishes, Teaches Kids, Feeds Homeless, Filled w Compassion

3) Sexual v. 25 man & his wife were both naked & they felt no shame

SEX is GIFT of GOD for Pleasure - Not just Procreation

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 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.”
Genesis 2.21-23

LIKE him but Wonderfully Different: Adam spoke Calif. **WOW! MAN**

WHAT a Woman – in Pristine Glory – Wonder Woman / Miss Universe

God himself, like a father of the bride, leads the woman to the man. G. von Rad

Man and Woman / True Partnership - PERFECT COMPLIMENT

a. Man Makes Promises

Marriage Not 4 Everyone: Not Complete You or Guarantee Happiness CHOICE you Can Make

> Every Choice carries Responsibility

1) Ultimate a man shall leave his father and his mother Genesis 2.24

If you Choose Marriage > NO Human is MORE Important to You! Other important things:

Parents, Children, Friends, Work, even Church 2nd Place IF you're— Parents, Kids, Friends,
Ministry: RESPECT This!

2) Permanent

hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh Genesis 2.24

Marriage Not Just Convenience or Contract – Covenant with God

The marriage covenant is only to be broken by death.

Many People want to MAKE SURE Ready by LIVING Together

STATS – Divorce Rates Higher those Played House before Marriage

If you LIVE Together without Commitment to Marry > SELFISH SELFISHNESS brings
DEATH to MARRIAGE

3) Intimate - Socially, Spiritually, Sexually – Best Friends > No Hiding the man & his wife were both naked and were not ashamed Genesis 2.25

ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER DESPITE IMPERFECTIONS

People Need INTIMACY / Companionship > Even if NOT MARRIED

We must live in a house with no roof and no walls. East African Revival Couples must Work
to Protect INTIMACY & Trust of Marriage

2. Marriage: Ruined by Sin

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the
garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that
you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2.16,17

ALL Wonderful Choices in God's Garden – Make 1 Forbidden Choice

Tree – Likely Real Tree w Tasty Fruit – Symbol of God's Authority Asks Who's In
Charge? Source of Truth? Determines Good & Evil?

Eating = Rejection of God and His Authority / SLAP in His face Result? Death &
Judgment on Them & Everything / Incl Marriage

GOD – the Offended Maker & Judge – Enters CRIME SCENE of Eden

Sees ½ Eaten FRUIT > GUILTY Pair Hiding among LEAVES!

Naked Innocence LOST > NOW Covered w SHAME & GUILT

SIN is Total Game Changer – Smog, Suffering, & Separation BEGIN...

a. Husband: Irresponsible

God said, “Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said,
 “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”
 Genesis 3.11,12

ADAM Given Command - HEAD of Family - Most RESPONSIBLE Adam Starts BLAME
 Game – Every Man after STILL Playing!

Adam Blamed Woman & God / Luther: Adam "YOU Lord have sinned" Today: Men want Sex
 w/out Marriage > Force Pregnant Women Abort

UNFAITHFUL to Wedding VOWS > Neglect Child SUPPORT WOW!! Really BAD!!

– *Must be Somebody ELSE’S FAULT!!*

c. Wife: Dominant - “If he won’t run things, then I sure will!”

To the woman he (God) said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you
 shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”
 Genesis 3.16

"DESIRE" – GOOD Right!!?? - Wife will Love her husband?? Context CURSE:

Pain / Partnership Shattered/ Desire = Negative

Same WORD in Engl & Hebrew – God’s Warning to Cain – Next chptr...

“...if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must
 rule over it.” Genesis 4.7

So here in early chapters of Bible -- DESIRE = CONTROL

AS Man Fails to take Up HIS RESPONSIBILITY Woman says

"don't worry honey, I'll take care of it" / MAN "good now I don't have to"

VICIOUS Cycle - IRRESPONSIBLE / DOMINANCE - Family Collapse

BOTH "Women's Liberation" & "Male Chauvinism" Result of Fall

3. Marriage: Restored through Salvation

Great News – Colossians > Undeserved, Wondrous, Salvation of God

Salvation So Powerful Everything Changes > Crucified / Risen JESUS

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3.17

This is the GOSPEL TONIC that Irresponsible Husbands,

Dominant Wives, and Sin-Sick Marriages Need....

M & W Saved by Grace, Filled by Spirit of God > Can Reverse Curse

a. Wives: Loving Submission - Submit Like Jesus

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Coloss 3.18

SOME WOMEN *"my husband just won't be the leader of our home"*

Not Easy! Sometimes Wives Will Not YIELD to His Leadership

WORD "Submit" - NEEDS UNDERSTANDING

NOT Dictator, Superior, Exclusive Decision Maker, Always Right

After Discussion > Husband Responsible for Final Outcome

When his PLAN FAILS > Wife will say, "I TOLD YOU SO!" --- NO!!

My WIFE says "That's Right, my Husband is the Head"

BUT I AM THE NECK THAT MOVES THE HEAD!!

v. 18 "as is fitting in the Lord" – Not Because Man is Good

Even if he's UNBELIEVER // SUBMISSION is to the LORD

b. Husbands: Loving Leadership - Love Like Jesus

Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Coloss 3.19

NOT THINK OF HIMSELF FIRST - BUT THE NEEDS OF WIFE

JACOB Loved RACHEL so much he WORKED 14 yrs for HER

“they seemed like only a few days because of his love for her”

Happy WIFE means a Happy HUSBAND - Husband takes the LEAD

By GRACE > Strength to Do What – Only God can Enable Us to do...

Husband: Love & Lead like Jesus / Wife: Submit & Serve like Jesus

TRIANGLE – STRONGEST GEOMETRIC SHAPE THREE-
WAY LOVE COMMITMENT is STRONGEST
HUSBAND & WIFE Submitted to EACH Other UNDER Christ

IF U R Looking for Life Partner > Look for Such Person like this Now

2 Things are NECESSARY for a BLESSED MARRIAGE

WHAT to Look for if YOU ARE NOT YET MARRIED??

- 1) a godly man who lovingly leads as Christ loved the church
- 2) a godly woman who lovingly submits to her husband as to the Lord

c. Christ our Hope & Strength – After Fall Good Marriage Not Normal

Paul set TONE for Life Together in the CHURCH in these Verses

How Much MORE will We Need God’s Grace to Life Forever with One

Colossians 3.12-15 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

PEOPLE DO NOT NEED DIVORCE - THEY NEED CHRIST DIVORCE Avoids

PROBLEMS // CHRIST Removes PROBLEMS

Foolish Idea > When you get Married you can Change a Person

"I do not think there are wrong marriages, only wrong people. There is nothing final and unchangeable about the wrongness of people...I've never seen a marriage that could not be saved. But I have seen plenty that died because one or both partners did not want to pay the price to save the relationship"

Marriage Counselor

Without a sure relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we simply do not have the strength or security necessary to sacrifice for the good of another...the only resource we have that enables us to love as Christ requires is His own love...Only when we rest in his love can we reflect it
 Bryan Chapell

Marriage Points to Our ETERNAL Love Relationship with Him in Christ

Prophets Promised we will be Blissfully United to God FOREVER...

With all the Passion & Excitement of ROMANCE

GOD uses this Most Intimate of all Relationships

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.
 Hosea 2.19

as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you Isaiah 62.5

"He sought us and joined us to Himself through spiritual marriage. He courted us. He won our love...He took the vows first of all: 'I, Jesus, take thee, sinner, to be my wedded wife; and I do promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, to be thy loving and faithful Savior and Bridegroom; in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, for this life and for eternity.' And we looked up into His face and said the same vows after Him to Him...we took His name and became His. we were Miss Sinner. Now we've become Mrs. Christian"
 James Boice

Invitation is OUT – Do Not MISS your GREAT WEDDING DAY

“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Revelation 19.9