

"Christian Marriage"

Genesis 2.18-25 / Ephesians 5.22-33

Marriage, Children, Workplace, Daily Battle of Faith

MARRIAGE - HOT TOPIC - now and always

JESUS' RESPONSE to hard questions

Matt 19 v. 4 "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female?"

v. 8 "It was not that way at the beginning"

TELLING US - want to understand marriage - GO BACK TO BEGINNING

LET US LOOK INTO GOD'S WORD TO SEE WHAT IT TEACHES

Gen 1 & 2 ALL IS VERY GOOD (1.31) - Except 2.18 "not good be alone"

### 1. Marriage: Regulated by Scripture

EVERY PRODUCT - "for best results, follow instructions of maker"

MARRIAGE - CREATION OF GOD / Owner's Manual-

a. Ultimate HUMAN RELATIONSHIP - MOST IMPORTANT

Genesis 2:24a a man will leave his father and mother

Biblical Pattern - One man and one woman joined together for life

Not just Convenient System - or Social Contract - but DIVINE COVENANT

NO RIVALS - PARENTS, CHILDREN, FRIENDS, WORK, CHURCH

Howard Hendricks "Marriage is not finding the person you can live with, it is FINDING THE PERSON YOU CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT."

b. Permanent

2:24 and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

LASTING EARTHLY RELATIONSHIP "long as you both shall live"  
or till my lawyer can get me out w/out losing my shirt

CONTRA marriage sealed for eternity

Matt 22:30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage

Contra - Living together / Studies more pain / not a preparation  
HIGHER DIVORCE RATE AFTER MARRIAGE

NO "EASY DIVORCE" PAIN & CONSEQUENCES LAST A LIFETIME  
God says in Malachi "I hate divorce" // NOT DIVORCED PEOPLE  
GOD HATES WHAT IT DOES TO PEOPLE, FAMILIES, NATIONS

DIVORCE BREAKS CREATION PATTERN

Gen 1.27 "So God created man(kind) in His OWN IMAGE, in the image of God he created him, MALE AND FEMALE He created them"

Fullness of God's Image - Man CROWN of God's Creation

Two become one // Reflect perfect unity Trinity/ 3 & 1

MARRIAGE - man and woman together - more full expression IMAGE

c. Intimate

2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

EVIDENCE OF OUR SIN - WE FEEL ASHAMED JUST TO THINK IT

v. 23 "Wow - MAN" / INTIMACY, UNDERSTANDING, SENSITIVITY

IN EVERY WAY - SHARING AT THE DEEPEST LEVELS  
partners in Social, Spiritual, and Sexual Needs

BROKEN BY BETRAYED CONFIDENCES - tell stories on our spouse  
MAJOR REASON FOR MARRIAGE COLLAPSE lack of romantic love

NEED FOR INTIMACY - 2 Porcupines living in Siberia  
Deep, heavy snows came, very cold, GOT CLOSE TOGETHER  
STUCK ONE ANOTHER WITH THEIR QUILLS

TOO COLD TO BE SEPARATED FROM EACHOTHER  
 Forced to be close together - did so VERY CAREFULLY

Marriage is like flies on the screen door.

Those on the outside want in, those on the inside want out.

ACTUALLY ALL MARRIAGES ARE HAPPY  
 it is the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble

WHY ARE MARRIAGES NOT ULTIMATE, PERMANENT, INTIMATE?

## 2. Marriage: Ruined by Sin

God had forbidden them from just one thing in Garden 2.17

FRUIT - Question of who is in charge? Who / what is source of truth?  
 standard of morality? / Who determines Good and Evil?

EATING FRUIT - rejection of God and His authority / slap in His face

RESULT? - Death and judgment on them & everything / including marriage

a. Separation - from Eachother - from God and His blessing

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. {5} "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

“husband, who was with her” - STRONG AND SILENT TYPE  
 SILENT AS THEY AND WHOLE WORLD FELL FROM GOD

PERFECT HARMONY SHATTERED/ Run from GOD / STILL GOING

## GUILT TO HUMAN RACE - SIN OF ADAM

Romans 5:12 sin entered the world through one man

### b. Husband: Irresponsible

Genesis 3:12 "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit"

Blame God and woman

Illus - obvious all society, absentee fathers, lack of leaders

EASY TO GET INTO IT / GRADUAL SLIDE

MEN ALL OVER THE WORLD - suppress women, crush them down,  
turn them into sex objects

### c. Wife: Dominant - "If he won't run things, then I sure will!"

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

"DESIRE" - GOOD!!?? - wife will love her husband??

Pain / Desire CURSE / He will rule, NOT Partners

Genesis 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

VICIOUS CYCLE - IRRESPONSIBLE / DOMINANCE - family collapse

BOTH "women's liberation" and "male chauvinism" RESULTS OF FALL

GREATER PROBLEM - CAUSE OF MOST PROBLEMS -

IRRESPONSIBLE HUSBANDS - when they love and lead solution begins

BUT WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN STRENGTH

great car - everything new and functional - WILL NOT WORK? NO GAS!!

### 3. Marriage: Restored through Salvation

#### a. God's Comprehensive Salvation NEW LIFE - NEW LIFESTYLE

Ephesians 1.3 EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN HEAVENLY PLACES

2.8-10 GRACE saved through FAITH - GOD'S DOING - we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, that we walk in them

WE WERE IN DARKNESS - NOW IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

#### b. God's Character in us and through us -

Ephes 5.1-21 WALK IN LOVE, LIGHT, TRUTH, BE FILLED W/ SPIRIT

#### c. God's Gift of Strength - We cannot live in our own power

Ephes 5.18 "BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"

PEOPLE DO NOT NEED DIVORCE - THEY NEED CHRIST

DIVORCE - AVOIDS PROBLEMS // CHRIST - REMOVES PROBLEMS

Popular marriage counselor "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."

#### d. God's Pattern for Wives: Loving Submission - Submit Like Jesus

Ephes 5.22-24

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

PERHAPS - YOU WILL NOT YIELD TO HIS LEADERSHIP

"Submit" - NEEDS UNDERSTANDING

NOT - dictator, superior, exclusive decision maker, always right

HUSBAND RESPONSIBLE FOR FINAL OUTCOME-

process of discussion & delegation / RELIEF TO WIFE, LIFTS BURDEN

MANY WOMAN THINKING "that's right, my husband is the head"  
BUT I AM THE NECK THAT MOVES THE HEAD!!

v. 22 "as to the Lord" - EVEN IF HUSBAND IS AN UNBELIEVER

1 Peter 3.2} when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."

HUSBAND SAYS IN AMAZEMENT -

"What got into her??" - JESUS CHRIST

TRUE AND LASTING BEAUTY {3} Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. {4} Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. {5} For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands

WRONG TO DRESS UP OR MAKE UP?? NO!! DO ALL WE CAN!! -

SECONDARY

DEVELOP BEAUTY THAT GOD SEES - THAT PLEASES HIM FIRST

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

e. Husbands: Loving Leadership Love Like Jesus Ephes 5.25-29

Jesus did not cling to the safety and comfort of heaven - He came and died!

1) Love of the Husband - Sacrificial

DOES NOT FIRST THINK OF HIMSELF - BUT THE NEEDS OF WIFE

JACOB LOVED RACHEL SO MUCH HE WORKED 14 YRS FOR HER  
"but they seemed like only a few days because of his love for her"

2) Love of Husband is SANCTIFYING "to make her holy and blameless"

DO YOU ALLOW YOUR WIFE SOME FREE TIME TO READ BIBLE?

TRUE LOVE ENLARGES AND ENRICHES - selfishness does opposite

3) Love of Husband is Satisfying v. 28 “Love wife, love yourself”

HAPPY WIFE MEANS A HAPPY HUSBAND - husband takes the lead

RESTORED INTIMACY IN CHRIST -  
TRIANGLE - THREE-WAY LOVE COMMITMENT  
TWO THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR A BLESSED MARRIAGE

CONSIDER WHAT TO LOOK FOR IF YOU ARE NOT YET MARRIED -

1) a godly man who loving leads as Christ loved the church

2) a godly woman who loving submits to her husband as to the Lord

Do what is NATURAL?? - NO, NATURE IS SINFUL - Need POWER OF GOD