

The Biblical Worldview of Marriage

Matthew 19:1-12; Genesis 2:18-25

INTRODUCTION

1. Creation: *Where did we come from, and who are we?* This is addressed in Gen.1-2
2. Fall: *What has gone wrong with the world?* This is addressed in Genesis 3.
3. Redemption: *What can be done to fix the world?* The answer to this begins in Genesis 3:15 and is developed throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

I. THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

marriage - the blessing of God upon the union of one man and one woman for life.

- A. The more our society moves away from a biblical worldview, the more institutions such as marriage will be challenged.
- B. Once the standard of God's Word is rejected, then how are you going to come up with a definition of marriage? (**Prov.26:4,5**)

II. THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE

A. God's *glory* (Rom.11:33-36)

B. *Companionship* (Gen.1:27,28; 2:18; Prov.2:16,17; Isa.62:5; Mal.2:14)

1. Helper (2:18; Proverbs 31:10-31)

a. Adam's loneliness was not good (Gen.2:18)

b. By himself, Adam was inadequate for the work of dominion (2:18; cf. Prov.31:10-31).

c. The main point of Adam's naming the animals that God brought before Adam was so that Adam would realize how lonely he was (vv.19-20).

Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast... (v.19)

The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib... (v.22)

[the LORD God] brought them to the man... (v.19)

[The LORD God] brought her to the man (v.22)

The man gave names to all the cattle...(v.20)

The man names her "she shall be called woman" (v.23)

Conclusion: ...but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable... (v.20)

Conclusion & Resolution: Adam has a suitable helper "This is now bone of my bones..." (v.23)

2. Join/cleave & one flesh (2:24; Ruth 1:14; 2 Sam.20:1,2; Eph.5:30)

3. Naked and without shame (2:25)

a. The Song of Songs is about a man and a woman in a garden (SofS 1:14; **2:1-7, 8-17; 4:10-5:1**; 6:1-3; 6:11-12; 7:6-10; **7:11-13**).

b. Song of Songs offers hope that even in a fallen world, husband and wife can come within reach of God's original intention for intimacy within marriage.

4. Physical relationship and multiplying (Gen.1:27,28; 26:8; Proverbs 5:15,18,19; Song of Solomon; 1 Cor.7:2-5,9,36; Eph.6:1-4; Hebrews 13:4)
 - a. Marriage is honorable (**Heb.13:4**).
 - b. Sex is a good thing only within the bounds of marriage (Gen.2:24; **Prov.5:15,18,19; SofS 8:4**).
 - c. The sexual drive, which is so powerful and almost inescapable, is a good thing and part of creation (**Gen.1:28**; Prov.5:19; SofS 1:2; **8:6,7**).
 - d. The waters of the sexual relationship are not to flow outside the boundaries of marriage (Matthew 5:27,28).
 - e. Husbands must fulfill their duty to their wife and likewise the wife to her husband (**1 Cor.7:3,4**).

III. THE DURATION OF MARRIAGE

- A. At marriage, a newlywed's primary loyalty transfers from parents to spouse (Gen.2:24).
- B. Marriage was intended to last a lifetime (Gen.2:24).
 1. The words "cleave/join" and "one flesh" suggest permanence (Gen.2:24).
 2. An unbiblical attitude toward marriage is, "If at first you don't succeed, try try again."
 3. "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew 19:6).

IV. THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF A GODLY MARRIAGE: "IF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE MAN WITH HIS WIFE IS LIKE THIS, IT IS BETTER NOT TO MARRY" (Matthew 19:10 with Matthew 11:28-30).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).

Define marriage. Is God irrelevant when it comes to defining marriage? What are some ways that our culture is trying to redefine marriage? What will be the ultimate consequence of leaving God out of the discussion?

What are the purposes of marriage?

Why does God have Adam name the animals?

Explain what was meant by the statement, "To not struggle in the power of the Spirit against sin's consequences in your marriage is in essence to give up an essential area of your sanctification, without which no one will see God."

How might this sermon help you to help others who are considering divorce as an answer to their problems?

Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (3/3/2002). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16.
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