

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE.

Genesis 2:18-25

Introduction

1. In a previous lesson, we noted that God, who designed and instituted marriage in the first place, has given divine guidelines to preserve it. They are:
 - a. Monogamy (**1 Cor. 7:2**).
 - b. Permanency (**Rom. 7:2; Matt. 5:32**).
 - c. Oneness (**Gen. 2:24**).
 - d. Mutual love and submission (**Eph. 5:22ff**).
2. Our next logical question might be: “What is the purpose of marriage?”
 - a. Our belief in a benevolent God causes us to accept the fact that He ordained marriage for the good of mankind.
 - b. He who made us knows our needs and designed marriage to meet some of those needs.

Discussion

I. A PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IS TO HELP MEET MAN’S NEED FOR COMPANIONSHIP.

- A. Humans are social creatures and need companionship.
 1. John Dunne wrote, “No man is an island . . .”
 2. An old song speaks of “people who need people.”
- B. It was God who said, “It is not good for man to be alone” (**Gen. 2:18**).
 1. As a general rule this principle is true (**cf. 1 Cor. 7:7,26**).
 2. God knew that man’s built-in need for companionship can most ideally be fulfilled in the marriage relationship.
- C- People should marry those they like, can get along with, and look forward to spending a lifetime with.

II. A PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IS TO FULFILL MAN’S NEED FOR SEXUAL FULFILLMENT.

- A. Humans are sexual creatures.
 1. Our sexual needs and urges are God-given.
 2. The Creator never intended for man to fulfill his sexual needs in any illicit ways (**Ex. 20:14; Gal. 5:19,21b**).
- B. The statement regarding Adam and Eve that “they shall become one flesh” (**Gen. 2:24**) refers to their sexual intimacy.
- C. The New Testament is clear in stating the sexual relations between scripturally married couples are neither shameful nor wrong (**1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4**).
- D. Sexual matters should be discussed plainly, but not crudely, prior to marriage.

III. A PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IS TO PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE REARING OF CHILDREN.

- A. Humans are dependent creatures, especially as children.
 1. Children should be born into homes that want them, will love them, and will care for them.
 2. Clearly our society has failed in these areas and is paying a high price for its failure.

- B. It is God’s plan that the human race be propagated through the sexual union of a husband and wife who love one another and who also love God.
 - 1. God’s charge to Adam and Eve was to “Be fruitful and multiply . . .” (**Gen. 1:28**).
 - 2. The New Testament says that women “should marry, bear children, and manage the house . . .” (**1 Tim. 5:14**).
 - Please note the order!
- B. The matter of children should be discussed thoroughly before the commitment of marriage.

IV. A PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE IS TO FACILITATE GOD’S PLAN FOR MAN’S SALVATION.

- A. Humans are spiritual beings, made in the image of God (**Gen. 1:26**).
 - 1. Unfortunately, the spiritual side of marriage is often neglected.
 - 2. Paul used the relationship between a husband and wife to illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church (**Eph. 5:22-32**).
- B. Since it is God’s desire for none to be lost (**2 Pet. 3:9**), it is reasonable to believe that what He has done through the ages—including the institution of marriage—is designed to help men and women be saved.
 - 1. The population of both heaven and hell will be increased because of people’s choice of marriage partners.
 - 2. Paul points out that the marriage relationship can either help or hinder a Christian’s prayers (**1 Pet. 3:7**).
 - 3. Parents are to see that their children’s spiritual needs, as well as their physical needs, are met (**Eph. 6:4**).
- C. In seeking a mate, major consideration should be given to whether that one will help you go to heaven or not.

Conclusion

- 1. Marriage is the foundation of society and should never be taken lightly.
- 2. Because of the purposes of marriage we have noted today, it is easy to see why God has regulated it so strictly.
- 3. We must not compromise His regulations concerning this or any other matter.

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