

## **Marriage**

### *chapter 28*

- I. What is marriage?
  - A. Historically—In all cultures and societies marriage has been understood as “the legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife.”
  - B. June 26, 2015 the definition changed in the United States—*Obergefell v. Hodges* concluded with recognizing as marriage unions including same sex marriage.
  - C. Biblical view—A lifelong relationship between a man and a woman that is established by a solemn covenant before God (Mal. 2:14).
- II. Marriage changes a person’s status before God and before society.
- III. Public awareness is necessary for a marriage.
- IV. Sexual intercourse alone does not constitute a marriage.
  - A. Exodus 22:16-17
  - B. John 4:18
- V. The sexual union is an essential component of marriage (Union/joined together).
  - A. Matthew 19:3-6
- VI. Marriage is a “picture” of the relationship between Christ and the church.
  - A. Ephesians 5:31-32
- VII. Christians should marry only other Christians.
  - A. 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

### **The Goodness of Sexual Intimacy within Marriage**

- I. Sex within marriage was created by God as fundamentally good.
  - A. For procreation—Genesis 1:27-28
- II. Sexual unity and relational unity.
  - A. Genesis 4:1 *4 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have obtained a male child with the help of the Lord.”*
- III Sin brought disruption to the relational and sexual intimacy in marriage.

- IV. Sex within marriage is still seen as good after the fall.
  - A. Song of Solomon.
  - B. Proverbs 5:15-19
- V. Following God's design always results in the greatest fulfillment.
- VI. Sex is an important part of an ongoing healthy marriage relationship.
  - A. 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

**God's Definition of Marriage is Morally Binding on all Peoples in all Societies for all of Human History**

- VII. God's design and definition of marriage was not just for the Jewish people, Israel was a people.

So it was God's design period. It was for all people just as the story of Adam and Eve represent the beginning of man for all people (regardless of their acceptance of the story).

- A. John the Baptist rebuked Herod Antipas for committing incest by taking his brother's wife.
  - B. In Leviticus 18, the Canaanites were morally responsible before God for many kinds of sexual sin (Vs. 6-23).
- VIII. Marriage between a man and a woman is the most fundamental institution in any society.
- IX. Adultery
    - A. Adultery is prohibited in Scripture.
      - 1. Exodus 20:14—"You shall not commit adultery."
    - B. Adultery wrongly brings in another person into the "one flesh" relationship.
    - C. Joining together in "one flesh" is a "supernatural bond" (not in book).
    - D. Adultery violates our union with Christ (and the Holy Spirit who resides in us).
      - 1. Ephesians 5:32 refers to the marriage union as a mystery referring to the church—the body of Christ with His people.
    - E. Adultery destroys trust—broken vows of faithfulness.
    - F. Adultery runs the risk of new children being brought in the world (or aborted).
    - G. Adultery can ruin a person's entire life.
      - 1. Proverbs 6:27-33
    - H. Safeguards against adultery.

1. Romans 13:14—*Give no opportunity for the devil.*
- X. Polygamy in the Old Testament.
- A. Did the O.T. allow it?
- XI. Sexual practices prohibited in Scripture.
- A. Incest.
    1. Leviticus 18:6-18
    2. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (man's stepmother).
  - B. Homosexuality
    1. All over scripture (we'll be spending time on this when we get to chapter 33).
  - C. Sex before marriage.
    1. O.T. Exodus 22:16-17
    2. N.T. 1 Corinthians 6:18
      - a. 1 Corinthians 7:2
      - b. 1 Corinthians 7:9
      - c. Galatians 5:19
  - D. Physical intimacy prior to marriage.
- XII. Singleness.
- A. Christianity affirms singleness as a distinctive calling and gift to the church.
    1. Exemplified in Jesus Himself—Luke 9:58; Matthew 12:48-50; the idea that all Christians make up a “spiritual family”.
    2. The apostle Paul—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7 :26-27; 32-34; 38
    3. There is a spiritual value of having single people in a church.
    4. Single people can often do more ministry than married with children.
    5. The people of God multiply through *spiritual* birth.
    6. Marriage is not necessary for full humanity or for a truly fulfilling life.
    7. God is sovereign over who gets married and who doesn't !
- XIII. Marriage and civil government.
- A. Defining and regulating marriage fits the purposes of government.
    1. Marriage restrains evil—by promoting sexual faithfulness between men and

women.

- a. By making a legally binding commitment with each other.
  2. Marriage brings good to society—stability, economic well-being, children; education, etc.
  3. Marriage brings order to society—defines responsibility; regulates abuses.
- B. Governments are able to define what constitutes a marriage better than any other institution.