

Marriage Is Honorable In All

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Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Genesis 1:27-28 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21-24 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1 Timothy 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Proverbs 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Proverbs 31:10-12 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

- I. Marriage is honorable in all.
 - A. It is from the mind of God, and it is ordained by God.
 - B. It is encouraged by God, and it is blessed by God.
 - C. Marriage is the will of God for men and women, with only very few exceptions.
 - D. The greatest blessings of this earthly life spring from marriage.
 1. Order and government, love, companionship, happiness, children, grandchildren, honor, stability, industry.

2. Wisdom and knowledge that comes only from the experiences of living intimately with a wife or husband and rearing children, and making a living, and maintaining a home.
 3. Understanding of God, who is our Father and Christ, who is our heavenly husband and we his bride.
 4. All these things cannot be learned to the fullest outside of marriage.
- E. So marriage is a good thing and an honorable thing if it is entered into according to the will of God.
- F. But as with all the blessings God has given to man, people have a way of making a mess of it.
1. Burning wood is a good way to heat your house, but if you do not do it right you can burn your house down.
 2. Riding in a car is a good way to get from place to place, but if you do not operate it with care and caution and obey the rules of the road, you can wreck the thing and get yourself and your passengers hurt or killed.
- G. Likewise, in the matter of marriage, it can be the greatest blessing of your life, or the greatest curse, depending upon how wisely you enter into it.
- H. Marriage is, by God's design, the best way for people to have the happiest, most blessed, and fruitful life here on this earth.
- I. The restrictions on entering into marriage are few in the Word of God.
- J. God has drawn some boundaries around who we are to choose from to marry.
1. God did forbid his people to marry strangers; people of the lands around them, and the people who lived in the land God gave to his people.

Deuteronomy 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Joshua 23:12-13 Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

2. Besides the fact that they would draw their hearts away from God to their idols, two people from totally different backgrounds and views of life cannot be yoked together and have a marriage that is what God intended it to be.
3. "Opposites attract" is a fool's game when it comes to marriage – take it from someone who has been married for 45 years.
4. When opposites get married they establish their relationship and home in a field full of contention and disagreements; differences in tastes and attitudes; and much more that makes their life a war zone.
5. God commands his people still to not be yoked together with unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.**

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- K. This is the mind of God on this matter, even though we see exceptions we see in the Bible.
1. Moses married an Ethiopian woman.

2. Joseph married the daughter of an Egyptian priest.
 3. Booz married Ruth, who was a Moabitess.
 4. Salmon married Rahab the harlot, who was a woman of Jericho.
- L. What we must keep in mind is what God has said about the matter, not what other people have done.
1. God is our lawgiver – not the examples of sinful men and women.
 2. God suffered the people to do a lot of things in the Old Testament, like put away their wives, because of the hardness of their hearts.
 3. We are in the age of grace, where we have a much greater and clearer revelation of God, and so we are without excuse in this matter.
 4. Many of us married before we were truly saved and God has shown us mercy and the miracle of truly being born again has allowed our marriages to survive, even though they were entered into the wrong way.

II. We are warned that the last days these ideas that marriage is a bad thing will prevail.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **Forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

- A. The entertainment media has been giving the public a brainwashing in this matter for decades.
 1. Think of all the “wholesome” TV shows and movies through the past several decades that have portrayed marriage as an undesirable thing.
 2. It has been portrayed as something like prison or bondage and misery.
 3. At the same time they have promoted marriage outside of the bounds that God has established for his people.
 4. So the ground has been prepared for several generations now to make marriage an undesirable, negative thing.
- B. When men and women forsake the ways of God in every other area of life they are also going to forsake his ways in the matter of marriage.
- C. When they do this in any matter of life, the thing that God designed for a blessing is turned into a curse.
- D. The fact that 60-70% of marriages fail now is not because marriage is a bad thing.
 1. It is because people are not getting married in the will of God.
 2. And it is because people are basing their marriage on their lust and emotions instead of the vows that they make to one another and to God.
- E. No marriage is going to be without any trouble, or challenges.
 1. But those who marry because it is the will of God will stick it out and make the best of it as long as they possibly can.
 2. If it does fail, it will be because it was pryed out of their hand – not because they tossed it to the wind when it became difficult.
- F. Only those who treat marriage as Holy Matrimony will know the fulfillment of life here on this earth.
 1. A life of fornication and adultery, even if accompanied by wealth, fame, ease, and pleasure gives a miserable reward here in this life.
 2. Marriage gives us a way to understand the love of God toward us in ways that are impossible without it.
- G. So marry, but marry in the will of God, and understand that it is forever, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, ‘til death do us part.