

Marriage is Precious

Hebrews 13.4

What is the verse saying?

- “Honorable” means valuable:
- Acts 5.34 “reputation”
- Acts 20.24 “dear”
- I Cor. 3.12 “precious”
- 10 more times, “precious”
- But what does “in all” mean?”

- It could mean “valuable” in all times, for all people. This is true. Marriage is for all cultures, all times, lost and saved
- But it most likely means, “every aspect of marriage is precious,” even the bed
- This is the way the same expression is used in 13.18

Marriage itself is precious

- Paul's comment in I Corinthians 7.6-7 is not an attack on marriage.
- Paul also wrote I Timothy 4.1-3
- And there is no shortage of people who believe that he wrote Hebrews, which means he wrote 13.4

It is valuable, in that it is a display of
commitment

- Genesis 2.24; cleave is a word of commitment.
- Deut. 10:20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.

- God explicitly calls marriage a covenant, Malachi 2.11-16
- God deals with mankind through covenants, to which He is always faithful, and our marriages are to display that same kind of faithfulness, “for better or worse”

It is valuable, in that it is a display of
unity

- Malachi 2.14 calls the wife a companion. It is the feminine form of the word associate, or companion. Psalm 119.63, the Psalmist is the companion of all who fear God
- Peter calls us “heirs together,” I Peter 3.7

- Husbands and wives are working together for the same God, and the same goal.
- Subjugation of earth was given to them both, Genesis 1.26
- Conceiving and rearing children is given to both of them, Genesis 1.28

It is valuable, in that it is a display of
harmony

- Harmony: “a pleasant musical sound made by different notes being played or sung at the same time”
- They serve the same God, working to the same goal, utilizing their distinct natures and responsibilities in concert

- The husband is given authority over the wife, but under God.
- I Cor. 11.3, 7-12
- The wife is given authority over the home, but not her husband, under God.
- Ephesians 5.22-23
- I Timothy 5.14

- This culminates in the glorious relationship between Jesus and His Church
- Ephesians 5.22-33
- If it is “possible” that a wife is the head of the house, or even that there is an equality, then that same “possibility” must exist for the Church

It is valuable, in that it is only the legitimate outlet for sexual desire

- Hebrews 13.4
- Sexual desire is not sinful in its existence, but it can become sinful in its expression
- I Corinthians 7.1-5

- God wanted a populated world,
Genesis 1.28
- And the sexual relationship between
husbands and wives is how that
world would be populated, Genesis
4.1; Malachi 2.15
- I Timothy 5.14

This is not simply an exercise in
theology

- Where the value is, is where the vulnerability is—I Timothy 5.14-15
- The existence of marriage is under attack: “is it really necessary?”
- The function of marriage is under attack: “equality”

- The purity of marriage is under attack: “many outlets for God given sexual desire”