

Genesis 2:18-25

A. What is marriage? Where did it come from? What is the purpose of marriage? Who should get married in the first place?

1. A great deal of these questions are “up-for-grabs” in modern America.
2. Almost anything goes now; however, just because unregenerate men & women are pleased with how they have distorted marriage, it does not mean that God is pleased with their doings.

B. To define marriage & who ordained or instituted it, we have to go back to the dawn of mankind as recorded in Holy Scripture.

1. The purpose for marriage was given by God even before He made the 1st woman, Eve.

Gen 2:18: “the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’” These are 2 purposes:

- a. Companionship.
- b. Suitable or complementary help.
 - 1) The creation mandate in **Gen 1:28** was given to mankind. → Look there.
 - 2) This God-given creation mandate / order / charge was repeated by God after the Noah & his family left the ark. **Gen 9:7**: “As for you, be fruitful & multiply; populate the earth abundantly & multiply in it.”
 - a) Man needs help from a wife in that endeavor of being fruitful to reproduce & fill the earth.
 - b) Man needs help from a wife to subdue the creation. Men & women have different talents or skills that help to fulfill this call.

c. Chapter 24, sec 2 focuses on the purpose of marriage: “Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.”

- 1) I do agree with the WCF, marriage is for “the mutual help for husband and wife.”
 - a) It is hard enough for a single person to make a living.
 - b) Raising a family as a single parent is gruesome!
 - c) Men need help to care for children; women need help from a man to serve as a primary provider or “bread-winner.”
- 2) “Marriage was ordained ... for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue.”
 - a) “Issue” refers to all descendants coming from one’s body. According to Black’s Law Dictionary, an “issue” is a narrower category than heirs, which includes spouses, siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles.
 - a) The Bible frowns upon illegitimate “issue” or children born out of wedlock.
→ Turn to **Heb 12:4-11**.

- 3) God instituted marriage to provide “the church with an holy seed.”
 - a) **Gen 17** “I will establish My covenant between Me & you & your descendants after you throughout their generations...”
 - b) **Acts 2:38-39**: “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”
- 4) Marriage is “for preventing of uncleanness.”
 - a) Fornication
 - b) Adultery
 - c) Both sins— if not repented of— will exclude you from heaven according to **1 Cor 6:9-10**: “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Sec 1 gives us the definition of lawful marriage in God’s sight: “Marriage is to be between one man and one woman.”

A. Just because the USA or any other governing authority gives the OK for marriage by another definition, it does not mean that it is lawful in God’s sight.

1. Some may obtain legal rights & privileges while married to a person of the same sex; however, if they die without turning from this twisted, wicked version of marriage, they will not enjoy the privileges of eternal life.
2. I have known of Christian governing officials who had to step-down from their appointed office because they could not marry people of the same sex.

B. Sec 2 continues to define lawful marriage: “neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.”

1. Some argue: “Jacob, David, & Solomon all had more than wife. Why is it wrong today?”
 - a. **Mark 10:4** “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away. ⁵ But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.’” In prior history, God allowed certain practices because of the harness of men’s hearts. The same could be said of polygamy; however, as the fullness of God’s revelation has come through Jesus Christ, we are given a more complete & authoritative interpretation of the spirit of the law.
 - b. The requirements for elders in **Titus 1** & **1 Tim 3** both require a man to be “**the husband of one wife.**”
 - c. The qualifications for elder is the model for what every godly Christian man should pursue.

2. Turn to **Rom 7:1-3**.

C. Christian marriage is an illustration— a beautiful picture— of Christ & His love for the church.