

Marriage

Sadly, it seems that marriage in society today is not held in the same esteem it once was. The same could be said about a lot of “old fashioned values.” In this lesson we will look into what the Bible has to say about marriage to gain insight into what God thinks about it. Ultimately it is far more important what God thinks of marriage than what mankind does.

Scriptures

Genesis 2:18-24 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. 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” God saw the importance of companionship to humans. God showed Adam firsthand that no creature could truly be his companion until Eve was created. A man and a woman band together and form a team to deal with all else that may occur in their lives. Notice God did not make another man to be Adam’s companion but instead He created a woman.

Genesis 3:16 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” One purpose for marriage is to bring children into this world with two parents to take care of them. God wants children to have a mom and a dad. Shame on the person that brings a child into the world and is not a part of that child’s life.

Exodus 20:14 “Thou shalt not commit adultery” God expects marriage to be between a man and woman that are faithful to each other. So, running around on your spouse is not acceptable to God.

Proverbs 31:10 “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies” To find a virtuous woman to marry, or man for that matter, is a wonderful blessing that should be highly cherished. Certainly, we can see picking out a spouse that is not virtuous would be a terrible mistake that could make life difficult to endure.

Matthew 19: 3-9 “The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command

to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” We see here in the very words of Jesus that marriage is between a man and a woman. The couple is to stand together as one to face life as a team. We also can see that Jesus expects marriage to be an important commitment that should not be lightly ended. Our Lord tells us we are in fact committing the sin of adultery if we enter into a second marriage with anyone with one exception. The only second marriage approved by God is a marriage between a man and a woman that did not break their first wedding vows by being unfaithful to their first spouse. That is it! For that matter when one gets married for the first time, and what should be the only time, they cannot choose a spouse that has been put away for fornication or they are committing adultery in Gods eyes. This is not the view of marriage our world has today. Getting married is a huge commitment. With the right person it is a wonderful joy but with the wrong person it could cause one to miss out on Heaven. Please consider for yourself the question, is my marriage pleasing to God? Ask yourself, do you care what God thinks? I hope you do.

Luke 16:18 “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery” This verse Jesus repeats the Godly principles that He gave us in the book of Matthew. The Lord has told us a second time how serious and how important our wedding vows are.

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” We see in these verses that the husband’s and wives’ bodies belong to each other and should be seeing to each other’s sexual needs. This is not to be taken lightly. The husband and wife should not stop intimacy with each other without mutual consent because this could lead to one looking outside of the marriage for sex. It does not give either spouse the right to mistreat or abuse the other. The husband and wife should be lovingly looking out for each other. It is also very important to note the Bible only give us examples of marriages being acceptable to God when it is one man and one woman. This rules out having multiple spouses or same sex spouses. Marriage in God’s eyes is one man and one woman for life.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11 “And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife” Again Paul is stressing the importance and permanent nature of marriage. It turns out God only wants marriage to end in death. Fornication committed by one of the two spouses is the only authorized reason to enter into a second marriage that God has given us. Anything else is displeasing to God and is not an acceptable marriage too Him.

Ephesians 5:22-33 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband” We learn from these verses that the man is the head of the house and is to spiritually guide his household. However, the relationship is meant to be a loving bond between the husband and wife, not a prison. The husband is to love his wife so much he would die for her, like our Savior did for the church. That is serious business men. Do you treat your wife with the loving respect she deserves? Men you had better be able to answer yes truthfully to that question. The wife too should be letting her husband see how much he is loved and cared for. Wives do you treat your husband well? Husbands and wives need to be making sure the other feels like they are in a loving committed relationship. If you do not treat your spouse this way you are not pleasing God. Please take the time to make this relationship the blessing God intends it to be.

Colossians 3:18-19 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them” We see here again God has placed the man in the leadership role of the home, but that the husband is to take this role in a loving way. Please note this does not place wives in submission to all men, only their husband. Women are not to be considered second class to the man at all. Men and women have merely been given different rolls in the home. Husbands remember this is not to be abused, you are to love your wife.

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” Sex is permitted by God only in a scriptural marriage. In that marriage it is certainly meant to be enjoyed. However, in any other situation sexual relationships are not pleasing to God. This includes premarital sex, it does not please God.

Conclusion

In this lesson I hope you can see the importance God places on marriage. Hopefully, one can see how important it is to pick the right person to enter into marriage with. Marriage is not to be taken lightly and is certainly much more important that mankind seems to think it is. Marriage is simply to be entered into with the mindset of it being between one man and one woman for life. (One can certainly choose to stay single and lead a Christian life and go to Heaven.) When choosing to enter into marriage we need to be asking ourselves is this man or this woman going to try and help me get into Heaven? If you are married, you need to be asking yourself is my

marriage scriptural? If you are in a scriptural marriage, ask yourself, am I showing my spouse the love and support I should?