

Marriage

Marriage is an honorable relationship.

It is to be between a man and a woman. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4. It is authorized and approved by God. *'therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.'* Genesis 2:24. Jesus showed His approval of the marriage relationship when He attended a "Marriage" in Cana of Galilee.

The marriage relationship is to be permanent.

'Therefore they (the husband and wife) are no more twain (two), but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.' Matthew 19:6. When someone breaks up a marriage (whether it be the husband or wife or someone, else), the break up what God has approved and sanctioned. However, there are records of divorce in the Bible. All of them are found in the Old Testament and took place before Christ came and fulfilled the Old Law, which was given by Moses. *John 1: 17; Matthew 5:17; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:7-10.*

Why was divorce allowed then (under the Old Testament)?

Jesus said, *"Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered (allowed) you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."* Matthew 19:8. Even though God allowed it for a time, He never did approve it. That is shown by the statement *'...from the beginning it was not so.'* Malachi wrote about a man putting away (divorcing his wife) said, *'the Lord, the*

God of Israel, hateth putting away... ' Malachi 2:1 16.

The marriage relationship is dissolved at death.

'For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.' Romans 7:2. But what if a husband and wife divorce and remarry? Paul answers this question in the next verse. *'So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress., though she be married to another man.'* Romans 7:3.

The marriage can be dissolved if one spouse commits fornication (adultery) against the "truly" innocent spouse and they choose to put the guilty party away.

"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." Matthew 19:9. If a man or woman divorce their mate and marries another, without scriptural justification for such an act, they are guilty of adultery. And if one marries another who is divorced (without scriptural justification), they commit adultery. " Matthew 5:32v.

The marriage relationship is to be cemented together with love.

'Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.' Ephesians 5:25. The love that the husband and wife are to have for each other is a sacrificial love. It

is to be the same kind of love that Christ had for His Church, when He gave His life for it.

Our word "love" is translated from the Greek word "agape" or "agapao." In the Bible, it describes the attitude that God has toward: His Son, John 17:26 the human race, Romans 5:8; and especially to those who believe and obey Him, John 14:21 (Although God loves all men, John 3:16).

God's divine command for order in the marriage.

'...the head of every man is Christ; and the head woman (wife) is the man (husband) - and the head of Christ is God.' I Corinthians I 1: 3. And in Ephesians 5:21, *'Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.'* This was written to the husband and the wife. Then Paul continues, *'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 savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.'*

"Head" does not mean "a dictator".

The man does not have God's authority or permission to dictate to his wife anything and everything that she is to do. If the original word in the Bible that is translated "head" (kephale) had been translated to say "final authority," then there would not be so much rebellion against the idea that *'the husband is the head of the wife.'* Verse 21 tells the husband and wife to *"submit yourselves to one another?"*

How can this be done? Here is an example: If there is a problem to be solved in the marriage, and the husband and wife discuss their ideas about how to solve that problem, and there is a

real difference of belief between them, as to how to solve that problem, the husband by the authority of God, must make the final decision. Sometimes, the wife might have a much better idea about how to solve that problem than the husband does. It is then his right and duty to agree with her and use her idea to solve the problem. In this way, he makes the final decision, but he also submits to her in a loving and acceptable way, without any hard feeling and with compromising his. Also, it will show (demonstrate to her) his love, concern, and compassion for her.

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

God ordained marriages for man's benefit and happiness. After the creation was finished (except for woman), God looked upon it and said that everything was good. After man was placed in the Garden of Eden, God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*" Then God put Adam to sleep, took a rib from his side, and made woman, who was to be his helpmeet. I call your attention to the fact that the word here is "meet" (which means comrade or companion); it is not "meat" or something or someone that man is to boss around or beat on.

Marriage is a partnership.

Since it is a partnership, each has their specific roles to fulfill. And it takes both, working as hard as they can and giving themselves to that relationship to make it work. One person cannot do everything and they should not be expected to, by the other person. It is hard work to have a loving and lasting relationship. *'I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide (rule) the house (home), give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.'* I Timothy 5:14. The word that is translated "guide," literally means "a home

ruler." It means that the wife is the manager and director of their household affairs.

Marriage is for procreation, the production of children.

Genesis 1:27-28, "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; mate and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...*"

For Sexual Satisfaction

Proverbs 5:18, *'Let thy fountain be blessed. :and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.'*

To Prevent Fornication or Adultery

I Corinthians 7:1-5, *'...It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 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.'* I Corinthians 7:9, *"But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn"*

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**WHAT
DOES
THE
BIBLE
SAY
ABOUT
MARRIAGE?**

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