

Husbands & Wives – Lesson 1

Marriage is God's Idea

Question: Why do you think God instituted marriage?

- **Please Read: Genesis 2:15-25**
- Here we see some reasons why Eve was created
 - o A suitable helpmate who would be complimentary
 - o God took a rib out of Adam's side; signify partnership and companionship- equals
 - o God's plan is that together, they would reproduce children after them

Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"

I believe the precious oneness, unity and covenant relationship experienced between a husband and wife, is a reflection and resembles the inexpressible oneness that the Triune Godhead has for one another.

- Marriage between a man and a woman is God's idea from the very beginning
- In heaven, there is no marriage between people according to Luke 20:34-36
- Marriage helps describe the relationship we have with Jesus now and for eternity
 - o 2 Corinthians 11:2

Revelation 19:6-8, "Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: 'Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.' (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)"

Ephesians 5:31-32, "'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church."

Now for the matters you wrote about

The first letter to the Corinthians by the apostle Paul was written in response to the Corinthian Church asking him specifically about the subject of marriage.

- The context of this was written while the church was experiencing extreme persecution
 - o Paul was not discouraging marriage, simply that time was perilous for couples
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 7:1-9**
- Paul talks about sex in marriage and the importance of staying continually intimate
- Speaking of doctrine of demons in 1 Timothy 4:3, *"They forbid people to marry..."*
 - o Satan imposes religious restrictions on marriage in order to tempt them
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 7:10-16**
- Malachi 2:16, it says that God hates divorce
 - o When two people walk in divine love, you'll never see them in the divorce court
 - o **Please Read: Matthew 19:1-12** – Infidelity breaks the marriage covenant
- If a spouse is abusive, one can still separate from them, but remain unmarried
- If a one gets saved in a marriage, that is no cause for divorce, unless unsaved one leaves
- It is clear if you are saved, and you want to marry- you must marry another believer

1 Corinthians 7:39, "A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord."

Question: Why do you think Satan attack marriage so much?

Husbands Love Your Wives & Wives Submit to your Husbands

- **Please Read: Ephesians 5:22-33**
- Vs 24, "Wives should submit to their husbands in everything."
- Colossians 3:18 states, "...as is fitting in the Lord."
- If husbands love their wives, they will never ask them to violate God's Word
- Husbands are the spiritual leaders, to feed & care for their families- naturally/spiritually
- Jesus is our example of how to love our wives

Question: Wives, if your husband loved you as Christ loves the church, would it be hard for you to submit to him? What do you think biblical submission looks like anyway?

I like the summary that Paul provides in Colossians which he had wrote in more detail in the book of Ephesians. The Christian family is very important to our God:

Colossians 3:18-21

Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

- Husbands we take the initiative to love, lead and feed our families
- In return our families respond to us in submission and with respect to follow our lead

Question: Husbands, what is the one main thing you need from your wives?

Please Read: 1 Peter 3:1-12

- The Proverbs chapter 31 woman should be a great inspiration to all wives/mothers
- In line with 1 Peter 3:5, Peter states how women are to make themselves truly beautiful

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

- Marriage can be heaven on earth or a personal hell to run from- Proverbs 19:13
- Like any relationship it takes two to make it work- communication, investment & forgive
- When Jesus is at the center of a marriage, love and forgiveness flows freely
- Selfishness is the greatest enemy in marriage
- Subtle things like career, finances and even children can also create division
- Let's be quick to forgive and quick to repent in our relationships

Jesus said in Mark 3:25, *"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."*

Question: How can we guard against division in our homes?