

THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

(by Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION: Marriage is sacred. . .

I. MARRIAGE IS SACRED BECAUSE GOD INSTITUTED THE RELATIONSHIP

(Gen. 2:18-24).

- A. God said it was not good for man to be alone (v.18)
 - a. He was alone though he had the company of animals.
 - b. He was alone though he had the beauty of the garden to occupy his mind
 - c. He was alone though he had his work (keeping the garden, naming the animals)
- B. God said He would make a “help”- “meet” for man (v.18)
 - a. One meet or one comparable to him to complete him, physically, intellectually, and socially
 - b. One would help him as his companion.
- C. God brought the woman to the man – Man did not discover on his own.
- D. God established the marriage relationship for all future generations:
 - a. God said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be on flesh” (v.24)
 - b. Adam did not have a father and mother to leave, but all future generations of men would. (Matt. 19:4-5, Eph. 5:31)
 - c. Each man is to establish a closer relationship with his wife – leaving father and mother- cleave to his wife
 - d. “one flesh” is emphasizing the sexual relationship. (cf. I Cor. 6:16)

II. THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE DEMANDS WE KEEP THE RELATIONSHIP SEXUALLY PURE (Heb. 13:4)

- A. “Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb.13:4)
 - a. Fornicators “ pornos” – illicit sexual intercourse – used as a general reference to any illicit sexual intercourse – animals, same sex, spouse of another, etc. (Matt. 19:9, Matt. 5:32, I Cor. 6:9, Mk.7:21)
 - b. Adultery “moichos” – “denotes one who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another” (Vine) (spiritual sense -Jms. 4:4, , Jn. 8:3, I Cor. 6:9)
 - c. When terms are together we can see that the fornicator is one having sexual intercourse with another while not married, and the adulterer is one having sexual intercourse with one other than own spouse.

- B. Keeping the marriage relationship sexually pure will demand we:
 - a. Abstain from pre-marital sex.
 - b. Abstain from extra-marital sex.
 - c. Abstain from homosexual sex – Adam and Eve – Not Adam and Steve or Eve and Ellen. – Result of exchanging the truth of God for a lie and serving the creature rather than the Creator, (Lev. 18:22, Rom. 1:26-27)
 - d. Abstain from bestiality- sex with animals – defile self and is confusion (Lev. 18:23)

III. THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE DEMANDS WE KEEP THE RELATIONSHIP PERMANENT. (Matt. 19:6)

- A. Since God sanctifies the sexual relationship of a man and woman in marriage Jesus adds, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matt. 19:6, cf. Mk. 10:9)
- B. “Put asunder” is CHORIZO – denoting to separate or divide as what happens when one puts away or “divorces” his wife (I Cor. 7:10,11,15)
 - a. Departing creating “unmarried” state (I Cor. 7:10-11)
 - b. Don’t put asunder, do not depart from mate – God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16).
 - 1. God hates divorce not just unlawful marriages (Mal. 2:11)
 - 2. Marrying foreign women was one sin, but this also you do – divorce (Mal. 2:13)
 - 3. God is witness of the covenant between the man and woman whom He joins (Mal. 2:14, Matt. 19:6) – He joins, He witnesses, who are we to put it asunder?
- C. Marriage between the husband and wife is for life. (I Cor. 7:39, Rom. 7:2-3)
- D. Only one exception in divorcing – fornication (Matt. 19:9, Matt.5:32)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Marriage is sacred because God instituted it for man – Man did not institute it, therefore they must respect it.
- 2. If we believe it is sacred, we will keep it pure and permanent.