

A Marriage Made in Heaven

Introduction:

1. Many of us have attended wedding ceremonies, and have observed the laughter, the smiles, and being mindful of the good character of the ones who just said their vows, we have said “that’s a marriage made in heaven.” It is difficult, if not impossible, to pass a greater compliment to the couple, or to voice greater confidence in our anticipation of their having a successful and happy marriage.
2. Properly understood, it is a fact that marriages, as God designed it, **are** made in heaven.
 - a. Note Genesis 2:18,21-24.
 - (1) God made the first husband.
 - (2) God made the first wife.
 - (3) God said “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”
 - b. Note Matthew 19:6.
 - (1) If God joins them together as husband and wife, theirs must be a marriage “made in heaven,” or at least it must be a marriage which God recognizes as being a marriage.
 - c. Note Hebrews 13:4
3. From the verses cited, it should be evident that:
 - a. Marriage is of divine origin; it is not a human invention.
 - (1) If it is of divine origin, then it must be regulated by divine law.
 - b. The home which originated in marriage is the oldest institution in existence. It predates:
 - (1) The church.
 - (2) The government.
 - (3) Or any institution later established by men.
4. Regarding the first marriage, which was made in heaven, it can be said that in some respects it was one of a kind!
 - a. Neither party had any in-laws to advise them.
 - b. If Eve ran into trouble with Adam, she could not run home to momma.
 - c. Adam could not complain to Eve, saying “you don’t cook like momma did,” or “you don’t keep house like momma did.”
 - d. Eve could not have said to Adam, “you are not the only man I could have married.”

Discussion:

- I. **A Closer Look at the First Marriage (which really was “made in heaven”).**
 - A. It began with the Lonely Man, Gen. 2:18, 20.
 1. Man, by nature and creation, is a social being, but Adam at first had no proper object to which his affections could be properly expressed.
 2. “*I will make an help meet for him,*” v. 18.
 - a. God made woman!
 - b. If man is to achieve his most noble objectives in life he needs the help of his mate in every way, from the propagation of the human species, to the varied activities of his life.
 - B. The Provided Partner, Gen. 2:21-23.
 1. Divinely fashioned.
 - a. God took a rib – not from his head lest she rule over him, nor from his feet lest he trample upon her, but from his side, one neither his inferior nor superior, but to be near and dear to him.
 - b. From which He (God) “*made..a woman,*” v. 22.
 - c. “*Made*” in Hebrew denotes “extraordinary skill, care, and taste in the plan and proportion of the structure,” Jamieson Fauset & Brown.
 2. Divinely Presented, v. 22.
 - a. 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,*” v. 23. The first recorded words spoken by Adam
 3. Divinely directed, v. 24.
 - a. There is some question as to whether v. 24 was spoken by Adam, or by God. However, a look at Matthew 19:3-5, reveals that it was God who stated the words in v. 24.

b. *“One flesh”* denotes the complete identifying of one personality and the other in a community of interests and pursuits, a union consummated by cohabitation.

(1) *“One flesh”* necessarily infers the complete faithfulness they owe to each other.

C. The Wedded Pair.

1. Married by God, Gen. 2:22; Matt. 19:6
2. United in love.
3. Clothed in innocence.
4. Housed in Paradise.

D. There was a relationship which pre-figured the church, Ephesians 5:31-32.

1. The first marriage was a portrait of the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church.

II. **Christ and the Church (another marriage “made in heaven”).**

A. The Church is the Bride of Christ.

1. 2 Cor. 11:2; Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:22-25.
2. Jesus has one bride! Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:4.

a. He is not a spiritual bigamist!

B. There is Loving Leadership.

1. Eph. 5:25.
2. Christ does not relinquish His leadership role to the church!
3. He does not intend for husbands to relinquish their leadership role in the marriage and the home.

a. Adam did not assume his leadership role!

(1) God intended for Eve to submit and for him to be the head. I Timothy 2:11-14.

(2) Note Genesis 3:6. Adam should have stepped up; he should have warned Eve, but he failed in his responsibility. Genesis chapter three is “the saddest chapter in the Bible.” The results might have been different had Adam honored his God-given role as the head of his wife.

(3) There is no relationship more adversely affected by sin than that of a husband and wife!

C. There must be Willing Submission, Eph. 5:24.

1. We submit to His authority; we must not do “our own thing.” Col. 3:17; Rev. 22:18-19.

D. There must be Diligent service.

1. Romans 6:4; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 10:25; I Cor. 15:58.

E. There is Delightful Fellowship.

1. Fellowship with God, I Cor. 1:9; I John 1:3; I Cor. 10:16; 2 Peter 1:4.
2. Fellowship with each other, I John 1:3; Phil. 1:5; Phil. 4:14-16.

a. Must not fellow sin or error! Eph. 5:11.

F. There is a heavenly reward.

1. Matt. 5:12; I Peter 1:4; Phil. 3:20-21.

Conclusion:

1. A scriptural, happy marriage, where all parties are lovingly functioning as God ordained, can be the happiest relationship this side of heaven. An unscriptural, unhappy marriage, where both parties are continually feuding, fussing, and fighting can be the most miserable relationship this side of hell!
 - a. Every person who contemplates marriage should make up his or her mind to make his or her marriage “a marriage made in heaven.”
2. Biblically speaking, as it relates to accountable people, it is a fact that no unmarried person can go to heaven! By this, we are stressing that one must be married to Christ; he or she must be a part of His bride, the church!

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