

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE (I)

Creation of Mankind and Steps Toward Marriage

Introduction

- 1) Marriage is one of the most important, desired, and intimate of earthly relationships
 - a) We should desire that it is understood correctly and a blessed relationship before God
- 2) The world today is confused and misled on the truth about what marriage is and how to prepare for it – leads to fornication, unhappy marriages, divorce, and adulterous remarriages
- 3) God and His word must be our guide and instruction in every aspect of marriage (2 Pet. 1:3)
 - a) It is God’s authority, not man’s authority, that determines what is true and right (Heb. 13:4)
 - b) The world and many religions give inadequate attention to these matters, but we must study the word of God to know the truth and how to apply it

I) God Created Mankind as Male and Female

- A) **Genesis 1:27** – “male and female He created them” – clear distinction of gender and sex
 - 1) Necessary for reproduction of human race (Gen. 1:28); seen throughout God’s creation
- B) First marriage made possible when the first woman was brought to the first man (Gen. 2:22)
 - 1) Compatibility between sexes (v. 23 – more than just physically, see Prov. 18:22)
 - 2) Joined together “as one flesh” (v. 24 – unity of body and purpose, see 1 Cor. 6:12-20)
- C) Marriage is the only realm authorized by God for the sexual relationship (Heb. 13:4)
 - 1) Outside of lawful marriage is *fornication* (*porneia* – any illicit sexual intercourse) and *adultery* (*moichos* – specific application to those violating marriage bond)
 - 2) Worldly sinfulness – living together, “hooking up,” teen pregnancies, easy divorce (Eph. 2:3-4)
 - a) Many believe living together prevents divorce. 67% of those currently married cohabited before marriage with one or more partners. “A very high percentage of people in the U.S. cohabit outside of marriage. It is now normative behavior”
(www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sliding-vs-deciding/201807/the-risks-couples-moving-in-together)
 - 3) Teach children right vs. wrong so they will know and follow the will of God (Gen. 39:9)
- D) Marriage must never be “redefined” to involve “same-sex” or any other unauthorized relationship other than one man and one woman (1 Cor. 7:2)
 - 1) On average, globally, 80% identify as heterosexual, 3% as gay, lesbian or homosexual, 4% as bisexual, 1% as pansexual or omniseual, 1% as asexual, 1% as “other”, and 11% don’t know or won’t say. (LGBTQIA+) (https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2021-06/LGBT%20Pride%202021%20Global%20Survey%20Report_3.pdf)
 - 2) Sexual relationship of male and female to be fulfilled in marriage (vv. 3-5)

II) Important Steps Toward Marriage

- A) Boys and girls eventually reach an awareness of their attraction to one another
 - 1) Sometimes “acted out” too early by children mimicking those they see on TV or in magazines – sexual information is portrayed too openly and falsely in our society
 - 2) Encourage children to enjoy youth without growing up too fast to be like the world
- B) The proper time will come for young men and women to have “get-togethers” and seek out dates with one another with a view towards finding a mate for marriage
- C) Things desirable in a dating partner (who could become our mate for life)
 - 1) **Attractiveness** – care of outward appearance, gentle and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:3-4)
 - 2) **Good reputation** – good name, careful about choices (Prov. 22:1; Ruth 3:11)
 - 3) **Good circle of friends** – choice of friends demonstrates good judgment (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - 4) **Honest and polite** – pattern of godly living that will last a lifetime (Ruth 2:13)
 - 5) **Spiritually-minded** – puts God and His righteousness first (Matt. 6:33)

D) Engagement – the preparation for the marriage (not just for the wedding)

- 1) A serious promise to marry – not to be made hastily or flippantly
- 2) Should *already* have determined fitness of partner for marriage
- 3) Many today see it as status symbol (ring) or game to play – dangerous!

Conclusion

A **good marriage** is like a good wedding – a great deal of planning and preparation go into it. It does not just happen. Unfortunately, many put careful and extensive work into having a great wedding, but little to no preparation for a successful marriage. Let us obey God who blessed man with this relationship. May we strive and prepare for godly and happy marriages!

Part 2 – Origin, Purpose, Perversions, and Challenges of Marriage