

The Creation and Design of Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25

I. The Creation of Marriage

A. *Gen 2:18-23 – Creation of a helper suitable for Adam*

B. *Gen 2:24-25 – Creation of marriage*

Matthew 19:4-6 “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Malachi 2:14 the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant

A definition of marriage “marriage is defined as *a sacred, solemn, covenantal union between only one man and only one woman, in which God joins those two people only to each other for a lifetime.*” (GCOT Statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality, pg 5).

II. The Distortion of Marriage

A. *Polygamy (and polyandry)*

Gen 4:19 And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

B. *Divorce*

Matt. 19:3-8 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

C. *Co—habitation, fornication (John 4:16-18, 1 Thess. 4:3, 1 Cor. 7:2, 9)*

D. *Homosexual Unions*

1 Cor. 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous^[b] will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice

homosexuality,^[c] ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

III. The Biblical Purposes for Marriage:

A. *Marriage provides the only proper context for God's gift of intimate companionship and sexual expression* (Genesis 2:25; Proverbs 5:15-19; Ephesians 5:31-33; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9).

Gen 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

B. *Marriage provides the ideal context for raising children and the only proper context for procreation* (Genesis 1:28; 4:1-2; Ephesians 5:31-33; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9).

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply

C. *Marriage also serves to reflect the relationship of Christ and His Church* (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7-8).

Eph 5:31-33 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

IV. The Future of Marriage

Mark 12:25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Revelation 19:7-8

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure"—