

God's Work and Perspective on Marriage

1. God's Emphasis on Marriage

A. The Bible begins and ends with a marriage:

Genesis 2 The marriage of Adam and Eve

The word "church" has three meanings:

- 1) brick and mortar building
- 2) local assembly -church at Corinth
- 3) the church universal -all believers in Jesus Christ also called the bride of Christ

Revelation 19:6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.7 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" — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb**." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

B. The Seriousness of Marriage

- 1) Jesus was questioned about divorce and He went back to Genesis not the Law. Mt. 19:3-9

Matthew 19:3 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, 5 and 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.

- 2) The temptation of Joseph Genesis 39:9 ... nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and **sin against God**?"

- 3) Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for **God will judge** the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them

2. It was God's decision, not Adam's, for marriage

Genesis Creation account

Day 1 And God saw that the light was good.

Day 2 God separated the waters - sky and ocean

Day 3 Land and water created. And God saw that it was good.

Vegetation created. And God saw that it was good.

Day 4 God created sun and stars. And God saw that it was good.

Day 5 God created fish and birds. And God saw that it was good.

Day 6 God created earth creatures. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let Us make man in our own image. So God created man in His own image...

And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. (last verse of Chapter 1)

Genesis 2:18a Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;

3. God made the wife for Adam and brought her to him

Genesis 2:18b ... I will make him a helper fit for him."

Genesis 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

Genesis 2:22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

4. God declares that marriage is an exclusive and lasting union

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:6b. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.

From the Derek Prince lecture series on marriage

Christ's Role and Man's Role in Marriage

Ephesians 5:

25 Husbands, love your wives,

as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
27 so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it,

just as Christ does the church,

30 because we are members of His body.

31 "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.

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.