

Marriage

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Introduction.

A. The distinctively Christian home is disappearing from society today. (Genesis 1)

1. Christ needs to rule in the home.
2. Paul warned that we not be conformed to the world in this respect.
3. I met a couple recently who told me he had been brainwashed by his culture.
4. A great danger today is that of being brainwashed by culture.
5. God's word reveals righteousness, not the world.

B. I want to look at several passages today to present truth concerning marriage and family.

1. I hope married couples will make adjustments as necessary.
2. For those not marriage yet, you need to think clearly about marriage.

C. Background.

1. Genesis one and two deals with creation.
2. Chapter one really ends with chapter two, verse three.
3. Chapter divisions were added arbitrarily and sometimes are confusing.
4. Chapter one moves from general to specific.
5. Also, the name of God used in chapter one is Elohim, emphasizing the powerful one, but in chapter two Jehovah us named, the covenant keeping God.

I. God created man in his own image for the purpose of ruling the world. (Genesis 1:26)

A. The polarity of the sexes is the first thing God created.

1. Our culture is maculating women and effeminizing men.
2. This blurring of roles is a serious problem in our world.
3. Homosexuality is dealt a serious blow here because God created them male and female.
4. To reject your maleness or femaleness is tragic.

5. If man could be satisfied by another man there was no need for a women and visa versa.
6. God saw that his creation was good, but it was not good for man to be alone.
7. Man had creative ability to name the animals and had unbroken fellowship with God.
8. When contemplating marriage we need to find the one we can't live without.

B. Since it was not good for man to live alone God decided to make a help mate.

1. This signifies a corresponding one to return Adam's mating call.
2. God took a rib from the man to fashion his wife. (Genesis 2:20)
3. The man immediately recognized that the woman was what he was looking for.
4. People that want divorce usually separate over insignificant things.
5. If you have a commitment to the marriage, however, you can work out problems.
6. The greatest need in marriage today is commitment.
7. One student had four type written pages of requirements he wanted in his spouse.
 - a. I asked him how many of the things on his list were true of himself.
 - b. He said few of them were true of himself.
8. The partnership is only as strong as the person.
9. The two partners are to leave their parents and cleave to each other, becoming one flesh.
10. This is a picture of God's blueprint.

II. Four principles emerge from this text.

A. Marriage and sex are of divine origin, not the product of human invention.

1. We need to cooperate within the framework of God's parameters,
2. Sin perverts God's order.
3. Hugh Hefner's Playboy magazine represents a philosophy by taking a false position of sex supposedly characterized by Christians and then showing the opposite.

B. Marriage and sex were given as gifts by God before sin entered the world.

1. Therefore sex is not sin.

2. We need to buy this emotionally.
3. A couple I know has trouble in their sexual life because the woman over relates to her dad and thus cannot relate to her husband.
 - a. She loves her husband but can't relate to him physically.
 - b. Somewhere she picked up the idea that sex is sin.
 - c. Parents need to express love and affection to their mates in front of the children.
 - d. Loving parents produce loving children.

C. Reproduction is the normal but not exclusive purpose for sex.

1. Sex has a three fold purpose.
 - a. Procreation. (Genesis 1:27-28)
 - i. Children help parents to mature.
 - ii. Children help parents trust in the Lord's help.
 - iii. Children are a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5)
 - iv. My greatest ministry in life is what I have with my children.
 - v. One of my sons is ministering tonight in Chicago slums.
 - vi. My other children also minister in significant ways.
 - b. To prevent fornication. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5)
 - i. We are to flee fornication.
 - ii. We are bought with a price so we should not prostitute our bodies.
 - iii. The prohibition is not against sex but against fornication.
 - iv. Husbands and wives have responsibilities toward each other.
 - v. There is no reference to children in this context.
 - vi. A man who says his greatest attraction is toward his wife has a great testimony.
 - vii. Men who fail morally first lose their attraction toward their wives.
 - viii. Husbands and wives need to be magnets toward one another.

c. To promote mutual love. (Hebrews 13:4)

- i. The marriage bed is undefiled but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- ii. The physical is an expression of the deeper attraction of two lives together.

D. One relationship must be broken before another relationship can be established.

1. A man and a woman must leave their parents to cleave to each other.
2. Cleave means to glue in unbreakable ties.
3. Some people do not cleave because they have never left their parents.
4. Many students come to seminary with their umbilical cords in their hands looking for a place to plug it in.
5. When we do things for our children that they are capable of doing themselves we foster a dependent relationship.
6. God told Adam and Eve to leave and cleave before they ever had children.
7. Are you making it easy for your children to leave?
8. Nearly every counseling situation I have today is a result of either a failure to leave or a failure to cleave.
9. What are you doing to make it easier for your children to leave you and to cleave to their future spouses?