

PROPER MARRIAGE PART 2

29 November 2024

God wants us to know that marriage is as holy and as important to the church and to the world as the deity of Jesus Christ and the authority of scriptures. God established marriage between a man and a woman from the beginning just as He established the truth of His word and the deity of His Son.

Read Ezra 10:1-2. Notice that there is hope (vs 2) when people repent and turn to God.

Malachi 2:13-16 God's people were praying, crying, and offering sacrifices at the altar, but God rejected their offerings (vs 13).

The reason God gives for rejecting them is that they are not treating their wives right (vs 14). They were putting away (divorcing) their wives. God said He hates that (vs 16). This is God's definitive position on divorce.

When you divorce your spouse, you are revealing that you have no respect for God's word.

The Lord sees how you treat your wife: "**The LORD hath been witness!**" (vs 14). If you don't believe that, you'll go ahead and treat her treacherously. Always remember and believe that God sees what you do. It will help you to do right.

The Jew's sacrifice was rejected by God. A man who doesn't treat his wife the way God told him, will have his prayers hindered (1 Peter 3:7, Prov 15:8, Psalm 141:2), even if you're offering the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving (Heb. 13:15).

- You're not right with God if you're not right with your spouse.

"Therefore take heed to your spirit" and treat your wife right. If you have problems with your wife, it reveals that you have a spiritual problem (vs 14, vs 16).

- When you have problems with your wife, go to God and figure out what the problem is with your spirit that is causing the conflict with your wife.

"For one covereth violence with his garment..." "*Violence*" in the bible sense is a violation of God's commandments and His example. God's commandment is "**Husbands love your wives**" (Eph. 5:25).

- If you don't love your wife the way God told you to, don't look for external reasons. Look inward to your spirit. Find out where your spirit went off the right path.

1 Corinthians 7:7-16 Notice that the wife is not commanded to stay with her husband no matter what (vs 11). Wives are not expected to remain in abusive or neglectful or unfaithful situations.

- The wife can't remarry (vs 11).
- A husband can't divorce his wife when she leaves (11) or because she's not a believer (vs 12).
 - Notice that Ezra chapter 10 (putting away strange wives) does not apply to the New Testament Christian.
- A wife can't leave her husband simply because he doesn't believe. The believing party in the marriage is responsible to do right and make the marriage work.
 - Trust God, obey His word, and he will make your sacrifices benefit you in time. You're always better off obeying God.
- The unbelieving spouse may leave you (15). The important thing is that you do right regardless.
 - Don't abandon a spouse who's lost and headed for hell. Save them (vs 16).

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 “He that is married careth...how he may please his wife” (vs 32).

- When you get married, you can't be selfish anymore.
- Once married, you will do things you never did before to please your wife.
 - There will be things that she feels are important, but you don't.
 - If your wife is important to you, you'll do whatever is necessary to please her.

³⁴There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin.”

- These are the only two options God gives a woman. You can be a wife or a virgin.

“She that is married careth...how she may please her husband.”

- Once married, you give up the option to please only God and yourself.
- Now God wants you to figure out how to please your husband.

Bible knowledge is not enough. You've got to show that you trust God enough to put his word into practice in your marriage and your family. (See qualifications for deacons and pastors, 1 Tim 3:1-13).

1 Timothy 5:1-14

“She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.” (vs 6)

- God doesn't want your life to be all about pleasure. The pursuit of pleasure is the way to death.
- If you have a marriage and a family, it's not all about fun. It requires work.

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (vs 8)

- God expects you to work hard, pay your bills, and provide for your family. If you don't, you're worse than an unbeliever. You don't believe God like you say you do.
- When you don't obey God's word, you cut off the blessings that God wants to give you and your family.

A widow qualifies to be taken care of by the church if she worked hard all her life serving her family and the saints when she was younger. (9-10)

- God expects hard work and diligence from the man and from the woman.

Vs 11-13 When your love for Christ dissipates, you'll cast off your first faith and become idle and lazy. You'll begin speaking things you ought not (tattling, gossiping).

- The church is instructed not to support or give charity to such people.

Verse 14, “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house...”

- God is for marriage. Marriage can be full of blessings if you do it God's way.
- Don't neglect your marriage. Marriage requires constant maintenance.
 - Marriage is not a bad thing if you do things God's way.