

Restoring Marriage to the Will of God

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Introduction: This will be the greatest test if the church is to continue strong.

- A. Our culture is a strong opponent! **(1 Jn 5:3-5)**
- B. It is not enough just to stay together in marriage. We must have the love of God be a reality in our homes. **(Eph 5:25-27)**

I. Restoring God's Law on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

- A. What has happened in our country? **(Heb 13:4, Mt 19:9)**
 - 1. Those who marry and stay married are a minority.
 - 2. This church will be a minority even among brethren if we stand as we ought!
 - 3. The peer pressure to live together before marriage is great.
- B. What Constitutes a marriage?
 - 1. We must carefully define words! Without such care a verse can be twisted.
 - 2. Marriage is a covenant between two eligible people of the opposite sex to enter into the relationship of marriage. **(Mal 2:14)**
 - a. We follow the laws of the government if they are not against the law of God. **(Rom 13:1-2)**
 - b. The government allows a preacher to conduct the ceremony!
 - c. Fornication or the sex act does not constitute a marriage. **(Jn 4:16-19)**
 - d. Can two marry themselves? NO.
- C. Who is eligible to marry?
 - 1. One who has never married. **(1 Cor 7:2)**
 - 2. One whose mate has died. **(Rom 7:3)**
 - 3. One who has put away their mate for fornication. **(Matt 19:9)**
- D. What Constitutes a Divorce?
 - 1. It is a legal breaking of the marriage relationship. **(Matt 19:3-6)**
 - a. One may break the relationship without breaking the marriage bond. **(Rom 7:2; 1 Cor 7:10-11)**
 - b. Some "single" people are in fact "bound" to another.
 - c. Herod had a marriage to one who was bound to another. **(Mk 6:16-18)**
 - 2. God only recognizes a divorce for one reason. **(Matt 5:32)**
 - 1. It takes true conviction to stay in a marriage that has turned bad when there is no cause for divorce.
 - 2. A mate who drives another into adultery is not innocent.
 - 3. There is no such thing as a "mental" divorce or a "mental" marriage!

II. Restoring a Heart of Unselfishness

- A. It is not easy to put another first in your decisions! **(Eph 5:25-28)**
 - 1. During my single years I found many activities that required only one person.
 - 2. While I was only one I did not have to wait on anyone, give explanations as to what I was doing, or wait on someone before leaving.
 - 3. However I do not want to go back to that life.
- B. When someone marries another they must now make decisions for two.

1. Marriage begins with a free will decision to live for two. What were the vows and promises you made at marriage?
 2. God will hold us to our marriage vows. (**Mal 2:14**)
 3. Many forget their vows and let selfishness take over.
- C. How do two become one? (**Matt 19:6**)
1. This is not just a matter of physical needs, however it is a part.
 2. This is not a matter of negotiation.
 3. Two people become one by submitting to God's will. (**Matt 19:3-6**)
 4. God is the only foundation for a good marriage. Why? A servant of God must have learned to submit his spirit to God. (**Luke 9:23-24; Jas 4:6-7**)
 3. When a man has this spirit he will eliminate selfishness, pride and the desire to fight to protect his "rights". (**Jas 3:14-17**)

III. Restoring Responsibility in Marriage

- A. The Blessings of God always carry a responsibility with them.
1. This is true of salvation. The free gift of salvation produces a giving person!
 2. When one becomes a receiver only, in time the blessing will be lost.
 3. Remember we are talking about true service to God from the heart. It is possible to attend services while being like the devil at home. (**Mal 2:13-17**)
- B. Consider these responsibilities in marriage.
- 1. Trust (Prov 31:11)**
 - a. Honesty is something that we must fight to become part of our character.
 - b. How many additional hurts come when you cannot trust your mate!
 - d. What will you get when you marry a dishonest person?
 - 2. Honor and Respect (Prov 31:28-31)**
 - a. Respect is a strong need of the man. (**Eph 5:33**)
 - b. How does one gain respect? Let your honor be built upon service to the Lord. (**Prov 3:13-16**)
 - c. A self-centered person will have no honor. Our children will see us!
 - 3. Companionship (Ecc 4:10-12)**
 - a. This is based upon a common interest and a common serving one another!
 - b. This does not come from physical desires alone. (**Prov 2:16-17**)
 - c. What if you seek companionship with one who does not serve God?
 - 4. The fulfillment of our sexual needs. (Heb 13:5; 1 Cor 7:3-5)**
 - a. A marriage that has become a "house-keeping" relationship is asking for trouble.
 - b. Often problems in respect and communication will cause problems here.
 - 5. A Life full of purpose and meaning. (Prov 31:10, 25)**
 - a. An abundant life does not happen by accident. (**Jn 10:10**)
 - b. Will you change you attitude about your responsibilities?

Conclusion: God has richly provided wisdom for this life. (**Jas 1:5**)

- A. Our greatest need is a humble spirit so that we may learn and be blessed!
- B. God will never forsake those who serve Him, they will be blessed.