

## Marriage Is Important

### Int.

1. Aim: To show why marriage is important for all of us.
2. Matt. 19:4-6 "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
3. Marriage is for those who love God and one another
  - a. Love God - we will obey His rules
  - b. Love one another - Eph. 5:25,28, 33
4. An ancient proverb says: "If there be righteousness within the individual there will be happiness within the home; if there be happiness within the home there will be harmony in the nation; if there be harmony in the nation there will be peace in the world."<sup>1</sup>
5. The sacred covenant of marriage is very important to all of us because:

### Discussion

#### I. MARRIAGE IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN

- A. Humanists contend that "marriage" is merely the evolutionary product of a long line of biological creatures (e.g., some birds and mammals) that appear to have formed lasting paired relationships.
  1. There is no scientific or historical data that substantiate this assertion.
  2. This baseless theory originated in the minds of those who seek an origin for mankind in a naturalistic fashion.<sup>2</sup>

B. The case for the divine origin of marriage can be argued from various lines of evidence.

1. First, the study of both ancient and modern man reveals that marriage is a universal practice of the human family.
  - a. The late Dr. Ashley Montague, a prominent anthropologist, wrote: "There are no societies in which marriage does not exist" (240).
  - b. If marriage developed in a random, haphazard, evolutionary fashion, one might expect that "marriage" would be found in some cultures but not in others.
  - c. The evidence, however, simply does not support that view.
2. Second, the ancient Hebrew record reveals that marriage is the result of the creation of man and woman having been made especially for one another as husband and wife.<sup>3</sup>
  - a. "And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh: and from the rib, which Jehovah God had taken from the man, he made a woman, and brought her unto the man. And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:21-24).
  - b. Jesus referred to this text showing that marriage was instituted by God.
    - (1) Matt. 19:4-5
    - (2) Mark 10:6

C. Marriage is of Divine Origin not human.

## **II. MARRIAGE IS MONOGAMOUS**

- A. God designed marriage to be for one man and one woman
  - 1. He did not make a man and his wives
  - 2. He did not make a woman and her husbands
  - 3. But it was Adam and Eve
- B. One of the descendants of Cain was named Lamech. In Gen. 4:19 it says that "Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zilah."
  - 1. That is not God's plan.
  - 2. This is man's idea
- C. Christ endorsed monogamy in Matt. 19
- D. Paul made a comparison between a man and his wife and Christ and the one body in Romans 7:3-4 If you marry more than one you are living in sin.
- E. Some religions and cultures practice polygamy, but that is not true in Christianity.

## **III. MARRIAGE IS A HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP**

- A. The Genesis account of marriage
  - 1. Makes it clear that marriage was intended for one man and one woman
  - 2. There is no place for male with male or female with female
  - 3. There is no place for humans with animals. - Lev. 18:23,20:15
- B. In today's world there are many pushing for "same sex" marriages
  - 1. The Bible pattern excludes such relationships

2. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament condemn these practices:
    - a. Lev. 18:22
    - b. Rom. 1:26-27
  3. Thousands of years of human history have rejected “same-sex marriage.”
    - a. This bizarre notion made its modern debut in 2001, when homosexual “marriage” was legalized in the Netherlands.
    - b. Even now only five nations world-wide have adopted the anti-biblical, illogical, and immoral ideology—the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Spain, and South Africa.
    - c. However, if many other nations—including our own—adopt the perverse practice, such will not transform an evil action into a righteous one (Isaiah 5:20).<sup>4</sup>
- C. Marriage is heterosexual

#### **IV. PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE**

- A. To Provide human companionship
  1. Gen. 2:20-25
  2. When God created man, He saw that it was not good for man to be alone so He made a helper who was fit for him; that is, one who was man's counter-part, exactly suited for him.
  3. In so doing, God did not make another man; He made woman.
    - a. Of course, men need to enjoy the companionship of other men, but man needs more than mere male companionship.
    - b. He needs something more profound and significant than this.

- c. And I do not mean mere physical sex.
  - d. Man needs to love a woman and to be loved by a woman; that is, most men do.
  - e. You can study something of the exception to this in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. 1 Cor. 7
4. Woman is the completing part of a man.
- a. He is not truly complete without her. She supplies that which is absent in man.
  - b. She is that person who allows man to express himself, to know himself, and to develop himself.
5. In the same way, without man, woman cannot truly know, express or develop herself
- .<sup>5</sup>
- B. To propagate the race of man
- 1. Gen. 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth,..."
  - 2. It is God's plan that children be born in wedlock with a mother and father who love them and will raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- C. Prevention of immorality
- 1. 1 Cor. 7:2 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."
  - 2. Every man and woman who has the need should have their own companion.
  - 3. Each companion is to render to the other "due benevolence" in the fulfillment of the marital obligation.
  - 4. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Honorable = esteemed, precious, had in reputation

D. Provides an experience that helps each develop spiritually

1. Eph. 5:22-23 - 1 Pet. 3:7
2. The way we live together as husband and wife has a great deal to do with the way we develop spiritually.
3. The choice of a life companion may be the choice of our destiny.
4. Your marriage may determine where you will spend eternity - whether with God in heaven, or in hell with the Devil and his angels.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. The subject of marriage is very important to everyone:
  - a. Those looking forward to being married
  - b. Those married for a short while
  - c. Those who have been married a long time.
2. Sometimes people are not happy in their marriage and they should be. God shows us how to be happy, and how to make our marriage the most wonderful experience upon earth.
3. Illustration: All couples desire to be happy. A young couple were separated because of marital difficulties. They got back together and agreed to let their marriage go forward if the tree they planted in the front yard lived or died. That night they met each other at midnight watering the tree!
4. God intends for marriage to bring the marriage partners closer together and help draw them closer to God.
5. A happy marriage can be had only if both partners will listen to what the Bible teaches on this matter.
  - a. A happy marriage will bring us closer to God.
  - b. An unhappy marriage will drive us away from God.
6. Illustration: The keeper of the Springs

## The Keeper of the Springs

"Once upon a time, a certain town grew up at the foot of a mountain range. It was sheltered in the lee of the protecting heights, so that the wind that shuddered at the doors and flung handfuls of sleet against the windowpanes was a wind whose fury was spent.

High up in the hills, a strange and quiet forest dweller took it upon himself to be the Keeper of the Springs. He patrolled the hills and where-ever he found a spring, he cleaned its brown pool of silt and fallen leaves, of mud and mould, and took away from the spring all foreign matter, so that the water which bubbled up through the sand ran down clean and cold and pure. It leaped and sparkled over the rocks, and dropped joyously in crystal cascades until, swollen by other streams, it became a river of life to the busy town. Millwheels were whirled by its rush. Gardens were refreshed by its waters. Fountains threw it like diamonds into the air. Swans sailed on its limpid surface, and children laughed as they played on its banks in the sunshine.

But the City Council was a group of hard-headed, hard-boiled business men. They scanned the civic budget and found in it the salary of a Keeper of the Springs. Said the Keeper of the Purse, "Why should we pay this romantic ranger? We never see him; he is not necessary to our town work life. If we build a reservoir just above the town, we can dispense with his services and save his salary." Therefore, the City Council voted to dispense with the unnecessary cost of a Keeper of the Springs, and to build a cement reservoir.

So the Keeper of the Springs no longer visited the brown pools but watched from the heights while they built the reservoir. When it was finished, it too was filled with water, to be sure, but the water was not the same. It did not seem to be as clean, and a green scum soon beclouded its stagnant surface. There were troubles with the delicate machinery of the mills, for it was clogged with slime, and the swans found another home above the town. At last an epidemic raged, and the clammy, yellow fingers of sickness reached into every street and lane.

The City Council met again. Sorrowfully, it faced the city's plight, and frankly acknowledged the mistake of the dismissal of the Keeper of the Springs. They sought him out of his hermit hut high in the hills, and begged him to return to his former joyous labor. Gladly he agreed, and began once more to make his rounds. It was not long until pure water came lilted down under tunnels of fern and mosses and to sparkle in the cleansed reservoir. Millwheels turned again as of old. Stenches disappeared. Sickness waned, and convalescent children playing in the sun laughed again because the swans had come back." [Peter Marshall, Mr. Jones, Meet the Master, pp. 147-148.]

Please do not think me too fanciful, too imaginative, or too extreme in my language when I say that I think of the home, particularly the Christian home, as the Keeper of the Springs from which comes our nation's moral and ethical strength. The phrase, while poetic, is true and descriptive. As we think of it, we feel its warmth, its influence, and we are conscious of the memories which surge in our hearts, memories which linger with us in youth and maturity, memories about what our homes were and were meant to be.

[Illustration Taken from a sermon by William Woodson "Christian Marriage: The Keeper of the Springs]

## End Notes

1. **Marriage is for Those who Love God and One Another** by Thomas B. Warren. P. 5
  2. **Foundational Truths Regarding Marriage** by Wayne Jackson, Jan. 23, 2007 Christian Courier p. 1
  3. Jackson p. 1
  4. Jackson p. 3
  5. Warren. P. 26-27
- 

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - April 15, 2007  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com  
[www.evansgachurchofchrist.org](http://www.evansgachurchofchrist.org)