

The Significance of "I Do"

Int.

1. Aim: To show the meaning of the marriage vows.
2. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Gen. 2:24 ASV
 - a. There is nothing in the Bible about a marriage ceremony
 - b. But most people have some kind of ceremony to mark the marriage.
3. Often people go through the marriage ceremony without realizing to what they are committing themselves.
4. Young people need to understand fully what the ceremony says before they get married
 - a. Conference with those preparing for marriage
 - b. As you go through the actual ceremony it is hard to have mind on what is said
5. Those married need to go back and check up and remember what they said and to what they committed themselves

Discussion

I. MISTAKEN VIEWS OF THE MARRIAGE VOW

- A. Not permanent
 1. Marriage vow is something to gain a selfish end
 2. Cartoon "If I divorce him, I know he will have to give a great deal of money in settlement, but, so far, I just haven't been able to get him to propose."
- B. Joining together two angels
 1. Two perfect individuals when marriage ceremony is completed
 2. When conflict comes they believe it is time for the marriage to break up

- C. Expecting trouble - the opposite view
 1. Do not expect anything but trouble
 2. Plan to use trouble that arise as an excuse to break up the marriage

II. CORRECT VIEW OF MARRIAGE VOWS

- A. Involves others besides Bride and groom
 1. Involves God
 - a. Mt. 19:1-12 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put assunder."
 - b. Not just a human contract - but made also with God
 - c. If either one or both of the partners who is presenting himself for marriage is not eligible, then that marriage becomes an adulterous union.
 - d. God's laws governs marriage, for He instituted it.
 2. Involves community and nation
 - a. Pro. 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."
 - b. Our nation is suffering because of its loose attitude toward marriage and the relationship between men and women.
 - c. Marriage should be announced publicly because it involves the community.
 3. Involves families and the children
- B. Cleave to wife
 1. Mt. 19:5 Gen. 2:24
 2. Must continue to love, honor and respect parents

3. But the two have established a new home and they must not remain under the domination of their parents
4. Each family must be independent

C. History

1. Marriage was instituted by God in the garden of Eden
2. It was not good for man to be alone - so God created woman
3. Woman was to be a helper who was suitable for man
4. Marriage was honored in 10 commandments and by teachings of Jesus

D. Very serious matter

1. Outside of union with Christ it is most solemn, most serious, most intimate, tender relationship into which human hearts can enter
 - a. Greater than any friendship
 - b. Greater than relationship between parents and children
2. So serious it should be severed only by death - Rom. 7:1-4
3. Not to be entered thoughtlessly for it determines happiness now and our eternal destiny

III. THE MARRIAGE VOWS

A. Both make these vows

1. Do you take
 - a. You do it voluntarily - this is your wish and desire
 - b. Take each other with strengths and weaknesses
 - c. This is a commitment of taking

2. To be your wedded
 - a. Wedded means oneness - you become one flesh
 - b. Eph. 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own body. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." - shows husband & wife are to be one
 - c. Wedded also implies a joining — God does the joining - Mt. 19:6 "What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."
 - d. This joining is permanent and not subject to man's dissolution.

3. Promising before God and these witnesses
 - a. Mal. 2:14-16
 - b. Covenant with God - must be respected and honored by you also
 - c. Families and friends are interested involved in this marriage
 - d. You are making these vows to each other with God and those present as witness

4. To honor
 - a. Show respect for each other as a person with dignity and worth
 - b. Some do not honor each other as a person
 - c. Many criticize and ridicule their partner in front of others
 - d. You promise to honor each other not only during honeymoon but throughout life

5. To love
 - a. Eph. 5:25 & 28

b. How did Christ love the church?

- (1) Realistically - recognized their imperfections -that they were sinners
marriage partners must take each other realizing their partner has weaknesses
- (2) Sacrificially - gave his life for it - husband must be willing to sacrifice for the good of his wife
- (3) Purposefully - Christ purpose in loving church was to present it to himself - primary purpose of marriage is to help other partner live Christian life
- (4) Deliberately - did it voluntarily - Christ said no one took his life he laid it down freely - men should love wives voluntarily
- (5) Absolutely - didn't withhold anything needful - love other as you love self

6. Remain in sickness and in health

- a. Other partner may be sick and require your constant care
- b. There is the possibility of mental illness
- c. If love is true you will stay with partner

7. Prosperity and in adversity

- a. Financial problems may come
- b. May not be able to have as much as parents had when you left home
- c. Even though you may be in poverty - true love will draw you together as husband and wife

8. **Until death do ye part**
 - a. You promise to forsake all other's
 - (1) Does not say "So long as you do not see someone else who attracts you."
 - (2) "I saw someone else, and I fell in love. I couldn't help myself. I just had to divorce my husband and marry him." You promise to keep yourself to this one and this one only
 - b. As long as both shall live
 - (1) Does not say "As long as your partner does not cross you."
 - (2) Does not say "As long as you maybe compatible."
 - c. Mal. 2:14-16 - God hates putting away
 - d. Men may devise ways to set aside marriage but in God's book they were still husband and wife.

B. POINTS PECULIAR TO EACH

1. **Husband**
 - a. Take
 - (1) Implies he is to provide the necessities of life - food, do thing, shelter
 - (2) Vows to care for wife and the children
 - b. He must give ruling, guidance, and leadership
 - c. He must give loving consideration to his wife as the weaker vessel - 1 Pet.3:7
 - d. He must recognize the task of his wife as a great one and important

2. Wife

a. Obey

- (1) Promises to obey and be submissive - 1 Pet. 3:1-6 Eph. 5:22 Col. 3:18
- (2) Marriage ought not to be a battle to see who is going to be the leader.
- (3) God has already decided this.

b. Devoted

- (1) Realize that husband has burden of providing for her and children
- (2) She should realize that she loves herself most by loving him

C. VOWS SEALED BY EXCHANGE OF RINGS

1. Groom

- a. A token of his love for her
- b. This is to be a reminder of the vows taken at this time
- c. This is a lifetime contract

2. Bride

- a. Bequeath - give to thee willingly
- b. Support emotionally and spiritually

CONCLUSION

- 1. Husband and wives ought to pray together and read the Bible together every day
- 2. Pray that your partner will never regret having married you.
- 3. Pray that God will help you live up to the vows you made as a husband or wife
- 4. Pray that God will help you to help each other walk closer to God and thereby help one another go to heaven when this life is over.

5. The husband and wife who pray together will stay together here and hereafter!
6. Pray that:
 - a. You will keep these vows
 - b. Your partner will not regret marrying you
 - c. You can help each other get to heaven.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night April 15, 2007
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