

Marriage - Man's Plan or God's Plan

Int.

1. Aim: To show that God's plan for marriage is beautiful but man's perversion is ugly and sinful.
2. Marriage was instituted by God
 - a. Male and female Genesis 1 & 2
 - b. Intended that there be one wife for one husband
3. Man has made a mess of marriage. We are living in a permissive period when men are perverting God's laws about marriage. This influences us and we must be firmly grounded in the truth about Marriage as God would have it.
4. We will notice (1) Man's perversions and (2) God's plan

Discussion

I. MAN'S PLAN OR PERVERSIONS

- A. **POLYGAMY** - having more than one mate at the same time
 1. God intended that marriage be monogamy - one mate at a time
 - a. Created one Eve for one Adam
 - b. Not God's will for men to have a plurality of wives or women a plurality of husbands
 2. Lamech in Gen. 4:19 was the first, then others, Jacob, David, Solomon — 700 wives + 300 concubines = 1,000
 3. It always causes problems
 - a. Trouble between the wives - jealousy - then hatred
 - b. Bitterness between the children and the wives

B. DIVORCE

1. God wanted marriage to be permanent -
 - a. Gen. 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."
 - b. Mt. 19:8 "He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."
 - c. Mal. 2:14-16 - God hates divorce
2. Man today is not taking marriage as permanent
 - a. About 1 million divorces last year + 1 million separations
 - b. In days of Christ there was a man by name of Hillel who taught you could divorce your wife if she burned the bread!
 - c. We have such trivial causes and have now come to what we call NO FAULT DIVORCES
3. There is no such thing as an honorable Divorce
 - a. If fornication is the cause = then sin and dishonor
 - b. If not fornication and they mutually agree to divorce then there is dishonor on the part of both partners.
 - c. With every divorce there is sin! Unless there is repentance of these sins, souls will be lost!

C. Trial Marriages

1. Becoming more popular
 - a. Compared to taking a car out for a trial drive "before buying
 - b. After period of time they decide to get married or part company
 - c. KERRY ANN WELLS, former Miss Universe [1972], said she would not think about marrying a man without whom she had lived in an intimate way, then she would buy a new coat without putting it on to see how it fit.

2. Big Difference
 - a. Nothing immoral about trying out a car or a coat
 - b. God says that adultery and fornication is immoral - Gal.5:19-21
 - c. Trial marriages are a matter of morality!!!

3. Trial marriages do not work
 - a. Dr. Nancy Moore Clatworthy - from Ohio State - did research on whether trial marriage helped in selecting a good mate
 - (1) She thought that trial marriages would help
 - (2) But her research indicated the opposite
 - (3) Couples who did not live together before marriage were more successful and happier with fewer divorces
 - b. The Bible teaches us that trial marriages are WRONG ! Anything that is wrong will be harmful and not helpful.

D. **NO MARRIAGE IDEA**

1. Live together with no intention of getting married - common law marriage
 - a. May last for few weeks or few years - co-habitation - shacking up
 - b. No permanent commitment to each other
 - c. When the affair is over they bid good bye
 - d. They live much like animals in the field!
2. This behavior is condemned by God
 - a. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
 - b. Rev. 21:8 — Part in lake that burneth with fire...

E. **ADULTERY**

1. Violation of marital vows
 - a. Adultery is defined "To have unlawful intercourse with another's wife, to commit adultery with." (Thayer) Webster - " Voluntary sexual intercourse by a married man with another than his wife or by a married woman with another than her husband."
 - b. Many today are committing adultery -
2. Perversion of God's plan
 - a. It can be the destruction of one home or maybe two
 - b. It's a serious offense against the children
 - c. If they are members of the church it is a sin against the church

3. Mate-swapping is adultery by mutual consent - swinging
 - a. Millions of couples swap partners for a time
 - b. Jesus said that his era was a "wicked and adulterous generation." Mt. 16:4
 - (1) Estimated that 90% of people were guilty of adultery
 - (2) Probably not far off for our generation
 - c. Adultery is a perversion of God's plan for marriage!!

F. Homosexuality

1. Not a new sin
 - a. Sodom & Gomorrah were destroyed because the people were homosexuals —
Gen. 19 || Pet. 2:6
 - b. Detestable sin in the sight of God — warning to those who live in rebellion
 - c. Rom. 1:26-27
 - (1) leaving the natural use
 - (2) Chosen that which is against nature
 - (3) God created a man and a woman - not two men, or two women
 - d. Many fighting for "Gay" rights today = gay wrongs / sins
 - (1) Even religious groups are approving - and sanction
 - (2) Anyone who opposes homosexuality will receive much ridicule and abuse.
2. Probably no greater perversion of God's plan for marriage
 - a. The suggestion that "groom less" marriages or "bride less marriages is sickening
 - b. God did not approve of Sodom's sin but destroyed them

- c. Every homosexual will be lost unless he repents and obeys God
 - (1) It is not a disease but a sin!
 - (2) God does not condemn disease and people will not be condemned for sickness!
 - (3) Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

II. GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

A. Those eligible to be married

- 1. Those who have never been married
 - a. Physically and mentally mature
 - b. They have a bond of deep love and affection
- 2. Those who have been married but their companion is dead
 - a. Rom. 7:1-4 v. 2 & 3 "2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man"
 - b. Must of course choose another person who is eligible
- 3. Partner has been guilty of fornication
 - a. Mt. 5:31-32 "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

- b. Mt. 19:9 "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."
- c. God allows divorce and remarriage for this cause and only this cause.

B. Marriage can be beautiful

1. When both are eligible partners
2. When love and affection is deep and abiding
3. When both mates are Christians who love God and one another
4. When as husband and wife they speak the added language of sexual union
 - a. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
 - b. Honorable = valuable, honored, esteemed, beloved, precious, had in reputation
 - c. Undefiled = unsoiled, pure
 - d. Judge = condemn, sentence
5. When they bring children into the world and train them to fear God and love man
Eph. 6:4 - Ps. 127:3-4
6. When marriage partners work as a team to do God's will
7. When they Grow old together as Christians

CONCLUSION

1. Marriage - Man's plan [perversions] or God's Plan = We must choose
2. Let us keep our marriages pure, and permanent
3. Marriage is beautiful when it is lived according to God's rules
4. Prayer for a married couple

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Sept. 16, 2007
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