

Marriage is For Men and Women Who Love God and One Another

Pt. 3 The Meaning of "I Do"

Int.

1. Aim: to show the meaning of the marriage vows
2. Matt. 19:4-6 NKJV "And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
 - a. Be Joined = cleave
 - b. Cleave = to give to, adhere, Cling, United
3. There is not a marriage ceremony found in the Bible. But it is a good practice and is very important.
4. Often people go through a marriage ceremony without realizing to what they are committing themselves.
 - a. Young people need to understand fully what the ceremony says before they get married.
 - b. Conference with those preparing for marriage
 - c. As you go through the actual ceremony it is hard to have your mind on what is said.
5. Those who are 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 VOWS

- 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. View ceremony only as a legal trifle
 - 1. The physical relationship is a privilege of marriage.
 - 2. It is not what marries us
- C. 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
- D. 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. Matt. 19:1-12 v. 6 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
 - 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 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?'" From 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 v. 2 "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband."
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. 19:6b "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
 - d. This joining is permanent and not subject to man's dissolution.

3. Promising before God and these witnesses
 - a. Mal. 2:14-16 v. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."
 - 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

Promises of Both

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 v. 25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,"
 - 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 may be compatible."
 - (3) Mal. 2:14-16 - God hates putting away
- c. 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.

Source:

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MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Dearly beloved: We are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in the bonds of Holy Matrimony. This institution is not to be entered into thoughtlessly nor lightly, for upon this relationship depends much of your future usefulness and happiness. This covenant is the most solemn, serious, intimate and tender earthly promise into which human hearts can enter; so solemn in fact that only death should sever its bond.

Who Gives this bride in marriage ?

If you two are now ready to choose each other as life companions, please indicate the same by joining right hands.

Do you _____, take this woman _____ whose right hand you now hold, to be your lawful, wedded wife; promising before God and in the presence of these witnesses, that you will honor her, and love her and remain with her in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, and forsaking all others you will keep yourself to her, and to her only until death do ye part?

Do you _____, take this man, _____ whose right hand you now hold, to be your lawful, wedded husband; promising before God and in the presence of these witnesses, that you will be to him a faithful, loving, devoted and obedient wife, that you will honor him and love him and remain with him in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity, and forsaking all others you will keep yourself to him, and to him only until death do ye part?

Is there a ring? (man)

This ring, like eternity, is endless. It is symbolic of love which unites two hearts so they beat as one. Take it and place it upon the ring finger of your bride and repeat: "With this ring I thee wed, and to thee I pledge my faith and my love until death do us part."

Is there another ring? (woman)

This ring is made of pure gold to symbolize pure love; it is one unbroken circle to symbolize unending love. So take it and place it upon the ring finger of the groom and repeat: "This ring, to thee I bequeath, and to thee I pledge the love of my heart and the loyalty of my life, and I promise you your faithful wife to ever be while along life's path we walk together."

Inasmuch as you two have privately consented to give yourselves to each other and have publicly ratified the same before God and these witnesses; therefore by the authority vested in me as a minister of the Gospel by the state of Georgia, and in harmony with the laws of God, I pronounce you Husband and Wife. What God hath joined together let not man put asunder.

I wish for you that your lives may be beautiful, useful and happy, and that when these beautiful bonds shall be broken by death, you may be together in heaven.

Let us Pray.