

The Holy Institution of Marriage (Part 1)

Genesis 2: 18-25

We face a pivotal decision in our state this week as we seek to define marriage based on God's divine design. Pastors all across the state have been encouraged to preach on the biblical principles of marriage. There can be no doubt that marriage and the home are under attack in today's society. Marriage is not a man made institution; it was created and ordained of God.

You are all aware of the dangers and difficulties that the family and home face. I could never have imagined the homosexual agenda being pushed in the way that it is in our day. History reveals those societies who embraced and encouraged homosexuality were destroyed by their own lust and sin.

Divorce also plagues the family in today's society. (I am not here to bring more hurt to those who have suffered the effects of divorce. I was raised in a broken home and I know the hurt that it brings.) However, we cannot deny that divorce is a major problem affecting the home.

Barna Research Group released new statistics in 2008. They found, of those Americans surveyed, 33% have been divorced, with 32% who are "born again" being divorced. Some researchers put the numbers as high as 51% of all marriages end in divorce. There are over 1 million per year in America alone. Many claim that the divorce rate is in decline, but that is only due to the increased numbers who live together outside of marriage.

One of the greatest misconceptions in our day concerning divorce is the argument that it will be better for the children. Ask those children who have lived it and see if they feel it was the best thing to do!

Clearly, the home is facing unprecedented challenges. We need to get back to God's desire and demands in relation to marriage and the home. I want to preach on the foundational guidelines that God established for marriage as we consider: The Holy Institution of Marriage.

I. The Conception of Marriage (18)

A. The Lord's Sovereignty (18a) – [And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. Notice Gen.1:31 – And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.](#) We are still in the 6th day of creation. God has looked upon His creation and it is very good. But, we find here that God understands that it is not good for man to be alone. This is no contradiction. We are looking at closer details of day 6 in chapter 2.

- God, in His sovereignty designed the institution of marriage. He saw that man was incomplete without a companion. Marriage is of God!
- Many across America are pushing to redefine the definition of marriage. Those who oppose the traditional view of marriage are seeking to implement radical changes in how America views and accepts marriage.
- The problem with these changes is that the view that many desire does not line up with the Word of God. We don't have the right to "redefine" an institution that God ordained! Humanity may choose to reject God's will, but that doesn't affect the way that God views marriage.

➤ It didn't take long for Satan to attack the home and God's ordinance of marriage. In the book of Genesis, the book of beginnings we find all sorts of destruction in regard to the home. I am going to deal with this just as it is recorded in Scripture. Some may think that I should leave it alone, but that is the problem. People no longer want to deal with truth!

- **Polygamy** – Gen.4:19 – And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.
- **Sinful Thoughts** – Gen.9:22-23 - And Ham, the father of Canaan, **saw** the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. The word **saw** has the idea of *"looking on with pleasure and delight."*
- **Adultery** – Gen.16:2 - And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.
- **Homosexuality** – Gen.19:5 - And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. Contrary to popular opinion, this is an abomination before God. Lev.20:13 – If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. Some argue that was recorded in the Old Testament and is no longer valid. If God said it once, it is enough! He has not changed His mind regarding sin, but for those who need proof in the New Testament, turn with me to Rom.1:24-28. Also notice 1 Cor.6:9-10 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, [10] Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor

drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. The word *effeminate* refers to “a boy kept for homosexual relations with a man; of a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness.” The phrase: *abusers of themselves with mankind*, speaks of “one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual.” Clearly God is not pleased with the agenda that is being promoted and sought within our own society!

- **Fornication and Rape** – Gen.34:2 - And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.

- **Prostitution and Incest** – Gen.38:15-16 – When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face. And he turned unto her by the way, and said, Go to, I pray thee, let me come in unto thee; (for he knew not that she was his daughter in law.) And she said, What wilt thou give me, that thou mayest come in unto me?

- **Seduction** – Gen.39:7 - And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

- Isn't that a sickening look at what mankind is capable of? Each of these problems is a direct result of man's disregard for the Lord's design for marriage and relationships. When the Lord's design for marriage and the home are cast aside and no longer regarded, society begins to crumble.

- We live in a day where all of this and more is prevalent in our society. There is no regard for the sanctity of marriage or the home. People live with only one objective and that is to satisfy the hunger of the flesh. Little or no thought is put into the consequences of their lustful infidelity. May God help us to seek Him and pray for morality in America!

B. The Lord's Solution (18b) – And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. God wasn't finished with His creation. He not only saw the need, but He had a plan for Adam and humanity.

- God's sovereign design included *an help meet for him*. God's plan is always the best. The word *help* means "one who assists another in reaching fulfillment." It has the idea of one who completes. The word *meet* refers to "one who is suitable to, or corresponds to." God created the woman to compliment the man and fulfill that which was lacking.

- God's desire and design for marriage is that each compliments and assists the other. God created male and female to work together and enjoy a fulfilling relationship. There can be no doubt that men and women live and think on different "wave lengths." Both have traits that are essential to the relationship and the home. The home needs the benefits and contributions of both!

- God created woman for the man. How could we possibly question the wisdom and authority of God? He who created the vastness of the universe and the delicacies of our human bodies. God took nothing and put it all together to form a complex universe and world inhabited by His creation. God ordained man and woman so that they might be fruitful and multiply His creation. The [help meet](#) for man was woman. Who are we to question that design? The homosexual agenda would have you believe that is narrow minded and intolerant, but that is the plan and will of God! God made one woman for one man; not many women for one man, or another man for man.

We have begun to look at the marriage covenant ordained of God. There is no doubt that America and the world have forsaken and, for the most part, completely abandoned God's will for marriage.

We need to pray that God would touch the hearts of those who have no regard for the ways of God. We need to teach our children the biblical principles of marriage and stand for them even when it isn't accepted or popular. I shudder to think where our society will be in the near future with the course we are running today.

Do you see a need for our nation and humanity itself? What will you do about it? Do you have children or grandchildren? Are you concerned about their future? If so, why not come today and seek the guidance of the Lord for strength and wisdom to stand in these dark hours?