

God's Servant Honors Marriage

Mark 10-1-11

Main Idea: God created marriage to advance the worship of His divine Person. When we follow Jesus, our ATTITUDES ABOUT marriage and our ACTIONS WITHIN marriage re-align to His good design.

Principle: Let the Bible sit in judgment upon your emotions, your experiences and your favorite experts. Resist the temptation to judge the Bible by these contradictory and unstable sources.

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17 [ESV](#))

"When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand . . . and she departs out of his house, and if she goes and becomes another man's wife, and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce . . . then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD." (Deuteronomy 24:1-4 [ESV](#))

Marriage is . . .

1. A Creation of God.

Three truths flow from marriage being God's creation:

Truth #1: Because God created marriage, He knows its design and its definition.

Definition of marriage: A sacred, lifelong covenant with God between one man and one woman whereby the two become one.

Truth #2: Because God created marriage, He regulates it according to His wisdom.

Truth #3: Because God created marriage, He purposes it for His pleasure and glory.

"Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:6b-7,

Principle: God did not create marriage mainly for the joy of sex, or for procreation, or for companionship, or for personal satisfaction with our lives. These are all intended benefits of marriage, but God created marriage so that we would magnify the glory of God through it.

2. A Miracle of God.

Truth: Since God performs a miracle at each wedding, He invests Himself in the lasting nature of His miracle. He jealousy holds the miracle He performs.

3. A Vow to God.

Three practical questions:

Question #1: What should a believer do if they are endangered by the abuse of a spouse? Take refuge.

Question #2: Can a person be divorced and yet innocent of the sin of divorce?

1. If your spouse initiates the divorce and leaves you.

"But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace." (1 Corinthians 7:15 [ESV](#))

2. If you divorce your spouse because of sexual immorality.

"And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." (Matthew 19:9 [ESV](#))

Question #3: Does the sin of divorce leave a permanent mark of shame on a person's life? No. Confession of our sin to God removes the guilt and shame of our sin completely.

4. A Concern of God.

Truth: God's ability to bless us through our marriage does not rely upon our spouse, but on the LORD who promises to complete the work He began in us.

Truth: God designs marriage to be His sanctifying tool to shape us into the image of His Son and His pulpit to proclaim His redemptive love to the world.

5. A Metaphor from God

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:31-33 [ESV](#))

Practical Considerations:

1. Invite the Lord to your table every day.
2. Own 100% of the 5%.
3. Seek biblical counsel from someone who will help you follow Jesus.