

# THE DOCTRINE OF MARRIAGE

- I.** Introduction.
- A.** Marriage is a Divine institution second only to volition (#1: volition, #2: marriage, #3: family and #4: nationalism).
  - B.** The institution is the ultimate goal of the right-man/right-woman relationship.
  - C.** That the institution was established by God (Gen.1:18ff), it is to be recognized and conducted according to Bible doctrine.
  - D.** Divine viewpoint only recognizes marriage between members of the opposite sex.  
*See the Doctrine of Homosexuality*
  - E.** It was established for the joy and fulfillment of men and women in the human race.
  - F.** The result for spouses adhering to like-mindedness in BD is that their relationship will experience maximum blessing in this most intimate of relationships.
  - G.** For most members of the human race, marriage is the norm; celibacy is the exception.  
Mat.19:10-12
  - H.** Marriage is reserved for only those living in a natural body of flesh. Cp.Mat.22:30
- II.** Vocabulary: The English translations “marriage/married/marries/marry/marrying” are found 104 times in the NAS Bible.
- A.** Hebrew:
    - 1. **יְשָׁרָה** – ishah; noun; used 768x; woman, wife, female; 419x it refers to a married woman.
    - 2. **בָּעַל** – ba-al; verb; used 17x; to marry, rule over.
    - 3. **בַּעַל** – ba-al; cognate noun; used 76x; owner, lord, husband, marriage.
  - B.** Greek:
    - 1. **γαμέω** – gameo; verb; used 28x; married, to take a wife; to get married.
    - 2. **γάμος** – gamos; noun; used 16x; marriage, wedding, wedding feast.
    - 3. **γυνή** - gune; noun; used 214x; woman, bride, wife, wives.
    - 4. **ὑπανδρος** – hupandros; adj.; used 1x; subject to a man, married. Rom.7:2
- III.** Definitions of types of marriages.
- A.** Monogamy:
    - 1. The marriage of one man and one woman.
    - 2. This is Biblically (and historically) the most common form of marriage.
    - 3. It is the Divine preference as inferred in the marriage obligations of the man leaving father and mother and joining to “his wife” (singular) and the two becoming “one flesh”. Gen.2:24 cp.Mat.19:5; Eph.5:31 cf.1Cor.7:2
    - 4. Monogamy is mandatory for any married man to hold the office of pastor-teacher or deacon during the Church Age. 1Tim.3:2,12; Tit.1:6
  - B.** Polygamy:
    - 1. This is the union of more than one spouse at a time.
    - 2. Polygyny refers to the union of one man and a number of women.

3. It may be as few as two women (bigamy), three women (trigamy) or hundreds. Cf.Gen.4:19; 1Kgs.11:3
  4. Polyandry refers to the union of one woman and several men having been practiced due to a shortage of women and/or severe economic difficulty.
  5. The Sororate Marriage involves marriage of one man to two or more sisters, often due to the first wife being barren or having died; some have married two living sisters. Cp.Gen.29:23,28
- C. Levirate marriage is the union of a widow and a brother of her deceased husband to ensure the security of the widow, keep the children within the same family and maintain an heir to the inheritance of the deceased. Gen.38:8-9; Deu.25:5-6
  - D. Group marriage involves the union of several men and women that are all considered to be married to one another and all share responsibility for any children produced.
  - E. Common Law marriage has an ancient history recognizing a legal contract of marriage even though no legal marriage ceremony is performed. It is not merely cohabitation, but both partners represent themselves publicly as being married. This civil law is not recognized before God.
  - F. Endogamous marriage is marrying within a specific group, most often among those of the same locality, religion, race or social class. Modern examples of this are seen in the corporate and political elitists like the Fords/Firestones, Kerry/Heinz and Kennedy/Shriver/Swarzenegger. Gen.24:3-4; 28:1-2

#### IV. The origin of marriage.

- A. The wedded relationship between husband and wife was ordained by God as the perfect solution to solitude in the human race. Gen.2:18,20
- B. The building of the woman was designed to correspond to the man in every way providing assistance in his niche as a “helper”. Gen.2:18
- C. This includes the ability to procreate (Gen.1:28) that obviously demands a female anatomy coupled with a male.
- D. The building of the woman from the rib teaches both an organic and soulful union between husband and wife. Gen.2:22,23 *See the Doctrine of Bones*
- E. This means they were designed to complement each other perfectly in every way emotionally, spiritually and sexually (sex is reserved for marriage only).
- F. The union is to remain unadulterated sustaining sexual fidelity between both parties as seen in the statement of innocence in Gen.2:25.
- G. Divine intention was that marriage be monogamous and permanent; Jesus makes it quite clear that divorce was not part of God’s original plan. Mat.19:3ff; cf.Mal.2:16

#### V. The basis for marriage.

- A. It is the recognized will of God for the believer’s life i.e., one is not an exception by choice or physical restriction otherwise. Cf.Mat.19:12
- B. In our society it means one has supposedly identified their opposite number and the identification is mutual.
- C. There is no call to compromise doctrine in the identification or marriage process.
- D. Soul rapport supersedes physical attraction.
- E. For +V, God has a person for you that will not be a hindrance to your +V.

- F.** It is not the will of God for a believer to marry an unbeliever. Cp.2Cor.6:14
- G.** To marry a –V believer is only evidence of one’s violation of the doctrine of separation initiating the relationship. Cf.Jam.4:4
- H.** One ups the risk of being dragged down spiritually in their constant association with a reversionist. Cf.1Cor.15:33
- I.** Lack of sexual restraint may mitigate one’s attitude towards marriage versus remaining single. 1Cor.7:7-9
- J.** Paul is not authorizing marriage based on sexual desires, but simply recognizes its influence among believers and that a promiscuous life is not an option to marriage.

**VI.** Prerequisites for marriage.

- A.** Both parties need a certain amount of maturity physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
- B.** God created both Adam and Eve as adults able to handle family life. Cf.Gen.4:1
- C.** Financial stability is always a good way to start a marriage.
- D.** Otherwise economic responsibility for marriage and family should be addressed and resolved at the onset.
- E.** Teenage marriages are generally the result of high libidos and lack of common sense.
- F.** Both parties should share the same desires and priorities in life expected under sound doctrine.
- G.** Evidence of such doctrinal harmony should be presently sufficient to erase any doubts of either party’s commitment in this vein.
- H.** The origination and/or pursuit of one’s opposite number should be initiated under the terms of fellowship allowing further development to occur naturally.
- I.** The male should take the lead under these conditions.
- J.** The male should evidence a posture of authority on behalf of the female indicating readiness to assume his role as head of the house (not over her at this time). Cp. naming and order of events Gen.1:19ff

**VII.** Reprioritizing at marriage.

- A.** Until one reaches the age/maturity qualifying them to enter into marriage it is preferred that the child remains at home under the authority of their parents.
- B.** As long as the child is at home, no matter their age, they are under the authority of the parents.
- C.** Once a couple is married the man is responsible to leave his family and see to it that his wife follows suit. Gen.2:24
- D.** Priorities for the married couple change by separating from their original families and giving their undivided attention and loyalty to their new found union.
- E.** The husband is to have zero tolerance for meddling by either set of parents.
- F.** This includes unwanted advice, criticism of your mate, financial meddling or strings, emotional guilt trips or any other forms of interrupting a cohesive partnership.
- G.** Once a person marries, the time for parental intervention in their life is past.
- H.** Married couples should look to one another and BD to solve their problems and keep partial outsiders distant.

- I. Resolution to conflicts and sustained unity will only be found between the two spouses.
  - J. The separation from parents is relative since the children are still under the mandate to honor their parents physically. Exo.20:12; Mat.15:4
  - K. Honoring does not mandate outreach in pity cries for emotional support.
- VIII.** The demands of marriage.
- A. First and foremost God expects the marriage to be permanent. Mat.19:6; 1Cor.7:10,11,39
  - B. Divorce is only tolerated by God and is never commanded. Mal.2:16
  - C. Divorce, apart from legitimate reason, should not be in the vocabulary of two +V believers. *See the Doctrine of Divorce and Remarriage*
  - D. Otherwise death is the only divinely legit release from marriage. 1Cor.7:39
  - E. Marriage complicates your niche, it does not simplify it. 1Cor.7:32-35
- IX.** The authority structure in marriage.
- A. The authority of the husband.
    1. The husband is the head or authority in marriage and as such is responsible for his wife (and children if applicable).
    2. He is to establish his authority immediately and exercise it in an appropriate fashion.
    3. He is to apply his authority recognizing the wife as an equal heir and the weaker sex. 1Pet.3:7
    4. His authority is to emulate the authority of Christ who is head of the Church. Eph.5:23
    5. God created man with authority over the woman before the fall and that authority was not abrogated after the fall. Gen.2:23; 3:16
    6. “Brow beating” is to be avoided, yet a determined stance of taking charge is to be maintained.
    7. The badge of the man’s authority is his short hair. 1Cor.11:7-9
  - B. The subjection of the wife.
    1. The woman is not the authority in the marriage and should not seek to usurp the authority of her husband.
    2. The wife is responsible to obey her husband as is fitting in the Lord, even when he may at times be unreasonable. 1Pet.3:1-6; Col.3:18
    3. The response of the woman is to emulate the Churches subjection to Christ. Eph.5:24
    4. The action of usurping authority and acting independently of the husband led to the fall in the Garden. Gen.3:6
    5. The badge of the woman’s submission is her long hair. 1Cor.11:10,15
- X.** Responsibilities in marriage.
- A. The responsibilities of the husband.
    1. The man is responsible for every aspect of the household and should not shun his duties in this regard.

2. He may delegate responsibilities as appropriate.
  3. He should pursue and maintain gainful employment recognizing the wife's duties at home and with the children as priority. Cf.Tit.2:3-5
  4. He should be willing to make self-sacrifice emulating Christ and the Church. Eph.5:25
  5. He should put her needs at least equal to his own. Eph.5:33
  6. He is not to deprive her sexually and insure her sexual fulfillment. 1Cor.7:3,5
  7. Authority roles in the bedroom are equal. 1Cor.7:4
  8. He is not to exclude the wife in the matters of marriage and the household at the risk of defying Divine design of the woman as man's "helper". Gen.2:18
  9. The husband should not place undue burden upon a wife regarding outside employment plus wifely duties at home that negatively affects her MPR and GAP.
- B.** The responsibilities of the wife.
1. She should strive to excel in a homemaker, mother niche leaving any decisions for outside employment otherwise to her husband. Tit.2:3-5
  2. She is to avoid being a "clothes horse" or pursue other extravagant lifestyles compromising application of BD. 1Tim.2:9-10
  3. She is to avoid the Eve syndrome and remain submitted to her own husband for advice and direction. 1Tim.2:11-14
  4. She is not to deprive her husband sexually and insure his fulfillment. 1Cor.7:3,5
  5. She is not to utilize her home time for idle gossip and worthless pursuits. Cp.1Tim.5:10-15
  6. She is responsible to learn BD quietly, with all submission and ask her husband any question she may have. 1Cor.14:34-35; 1Tim.2:22

- XI.** Right-man/right woman (RM/RW) principle.
- A.** All legitimate marriages are bonafide before God.
  - B.** However, God has a right counterpart for both to enjoy tremendous happiness as RM/RW. Cf.Ecc.9:9
  - C.** This means a spouse that will be a perfect match for the other in soul and body.
  - D.** For +V this means a spouse that will at the least be advantageous to their spiritual advance, if not equally +V.
  - E.** Many that have disregarded this principle have experienced much unnecessary suffering and heartache otherwise, if not spiritual shipwreck.
  - F.** Obviously, volition is a two-edged sword and there are no absolute guarantees as to end results in all cases.
  - G.** However, one can mitigate a certain future marital disaster by allowing BD to govern their potential marital decisions.
  - H.** Identifying RM/RW is not a post-marriage detection, but a pre-engagement reality.
  - I.** The principle of right-man/right-woman is depicted in the origin of man and woman recorded in Gen.2.
  - J.** The pattern of their creation is replete with insight into this most wonderful of all human to human relationships.
  - K.** Even in the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden, God saw that man's solitude without a suitable companion was "not good". Gen.2:18

- L. By grace, God then created his perfect counterpart, Eve (Gen.2:20).
- M. Adam had absolutely no part in the decision making and took no role in pursuing his right mate, other than just being there. Gen.2:21-22
- N. God perfectly anticipated and provided Adam a perfect match.
- O. The account teaches the mystery of RM/RW through the sleep brought upon Adam.
- P. The “deep sleep” caused by God denotes His role behind the scenes whereas man is otherwise oblivious.
- Q. That Adam “slept” teaches man’s part to simply faith-rest life and wait upon God for his RW.
- R. That God brought Eve to Adam teaches that God will ensure that right spouses will come together in time.
- S. The recognition of RM/RW will have both soul and physical attraction as indicators.
- T. This is seen in the marriage vows where Adam recognizes Eve as the perfect organic and spiritual union.
- U. The building of Eve from Adam’s rib personifies their equality in sharing the image of God factor (soul and spirit) earlier revealed in Gen.1:27.
- V. God performed all of this on Adam’s behalf on God’s own time and conditions.
- W. For the adjusted believer this means an exercise of patience.
- X. This may include a period of testing under loneliness. Cf.Jam.1:3
- Y. Even with maximum discernment and acquaintance of a potential spouse, no one is smart enough to know precisely what qualities another person must possess in order to be their exact like/opposite counterpart.
- Z. Since God is omniscient, He perfectly anticipates the needs of both parties and can successfully provide a relationship that will bring maximum blessing to both.
- AA. Two primary enemies for believers in this area are their libidos and emotions.
- BB. Failure to overrule either and not let BD be your driving force leads to energy of the flesh and trying to crank up relationships.
- CC. Those that insist on dating and following the cosmic trend for relationships to find their right spouse manifest a lack of faith and trust in God.
- DD. Faith-rest: You will not have to lift a finger, enter into the frantic search for happiness (FHS), violate separation or another principle of BD in order to have your right counterpart.
- EE. Hint: Your right counterpart will encourage your zeal for BD and evidence a parallel commitment in their own lives.

## **XII. Conclusion.**

- A. God designed marriage to be a grace blessing in the human race.
- B. The STA introduced many complications not otherwise originally intended by God.
- C. Applying BD and principles outlined in this doctrine can save much wear and tear on single believers waiting for their right counterparts.
- D. If you’re single, relax and follow Paul’s advice in 1Cor.7:27b and let God make any changes.

*“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”*

Gen.2:25