

Marriage & God's Word

Genesis 2:18-25

Pt. 1

Introduction - The great General Montgomery once said to his young troops, "*Gentlemen, don't even think of marriage until you have mastered the art of warfare.*"

Marriage is in trouble today! I want to know what the Bible, God's word teaches about "*marriage.*"

I. How God Created It, Genesis 2:18-25

- A. Adam's almost perfect world, vv. 18-20.** "Not good" contrasted with (1:37) "very good."
Ask, what was not good? Answer, man's aloneness. But in what sense was man alone? He had "God" and also "the animals" (vv. 19-20).

Adam had no horizontal relationship. No helper, no counterpart, spiritually, socially, emotionally or physically. So not good!

- B. God's Solution to man's aloneness.** Verse 18, "I will make a helper suitable for him." So woman was made to *complete* and *complement* him. The word *help* or *helper* in verse 18 is the same found in Psalm 46 to describe God as "*a very present help in trouble.*"

Wives, are you your husband's helper? Socrates once advised a young man, "*By all means get married. If you get a good wife you will be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.*"

- C. Here Comes The Bride!** vv. 21-23. God put Adam and Eve together, vs. 22.

"He who finds a wife, finds a good thing!" You say, "*but what if I married the wrong person?*"

"I have no way of knowing weather you married the wrong person, but I do know that many people have the wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful. I'll be the first to admit that it's possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person you could well end up having married the right person after all," Zig Ziglar.

II. What Are God's Foundational Principles for Marriage?

A. Severance, vs. 24. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother."

What does it mean to leave your parents?

1. Does not mean that you abandon or forsake them. Ex. 21:12
2. Nor does it mean you must move far away! You can live next door and "leave" or 1000 miles away and not have left them.
3. To leave your father and mother means that your relationship to them must radically change.
 - You establish an adult relationship with them.
 - You must be more concerned about your mate's ideas, opinions, and practices than those of your parents.
 - You must not be slavishly dependent on your parents for affection, approval, assistance, and counsel.
 - You must not try to change your mate simply because your parents do not like them.
 - You must make the husband wife relationship your priority human relationship. Two words, allegiance and dependence. The danger, wives and their children.

B. Permanence, vs. 24. "Cleave unto his wife."

Cleave in the Hebrew is "to glue together." You are not to look at divorce as an option if you don't like your mate. Marriage is a covenant, "til death do us part."

Jesus gave a commentary on this verse, Matt. 9:6, "What therefore God has joined together....". They asked, "*What about the Mosaic provision?*", Deut. 24. Jesus said it was because of the hardness of their hearts.

"Love is not a passing emotion, it's a continual devotion."

God's plan for marriage is a total and irrevocable commitment of two people to each other.

C. Unity, vs. 24 "One flesh."

1. It's not "uniformity."
2. At the most elementary level, it refers to sexual or physical union, vs. 25. In marriage, sex is God's gift! Hebrew 13:4

3. It's more than sharing our bodies, it's also sharing our possessions, insights, ideas, feelings, problems, successes, sufferings, failures, plans and hopes.

Peter Marshall described marital harmony this way:

Marriage is not a federation of two sovereign states. It is a union, domestic, social, spiritual, physical. It is a fusion of two hearts, the union of two lives, the coming together of two tributaries, which, after being joined in marriage, will flow in the same channel in the same direction...carrying the same burdens of responsibility and obligation.

D. Mystery, Ephesians 5