

The New Testament Church
BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW TEACHINGS

03 – A Biblical View of Marriage

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I Marriage is the foundation of the Family – Ge. 2:24 – q *Worldview*, pgs. 82-83; PP slides 1-9

- A. The genesis of marriage – quote from Adams, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage, p. 4
1. Leave – *forsake, loose* – a new family
 - a. A man *leaves* his father and mother, but a woman is *given* in betrothal
 - b. God the Father *brought* Eve to Adam – pattern for all weddings
 - c. Woman created from Adam’s rib – co-equal “bone of bones, flesh of flesh”
 2. Cleave – *cling (like glue), keep close* – a covenantal union
 - a. It is a word that describes a covenant – with God, husband and wife
 1. Today it is popular to view marriage as a contract (like a monetary agreement)
 2. It is considered temporary, only valid as long as people are happy
 - c. This corresponds to the reciting of vows in wedding ceremonies (public and God)
 - d. It is the highest covenant other than the one with God Himself through Christ
 1. There is a narrow set of circumstances that can warrant divorce
 2. God’s intent was for marriage to last “till death do us part”; the breaking of the covenant through adultery or fornication is “the death of the covenant” – p. 4 (Adams)
 3. One Flesh – *to fall out, come to pass, become...* - one in every area of life
 - a. This does not just mean sexual union – quote Adams – p. 7
 - b. It means the two become one in beliefs, practical areas of life, to build a family
 - c. This corresponds to the “kiss” in the wedding ceremony – after the *vows*
 - d. It does not mean that they are no longer separate individuals – they need “space”
- B. Preparation for Marriage – courtship or dating? – which prepares one better?

1. ***Men and women should not give away their hearts or passion before God does***

<u>Courtship</u> (pairing up by covenant)	<u>Unrestricted Dating</u> (pairing up by passion)
<u>Leaving</u> (maturity from home)	<u>Taking</u> (robbing parental honor)
<u>Cleaving</u> (protection for passion)	<u>Spending</u> (wasting stored treasure)
<u>One Flesh</u> (unity by responsibility)	<u>Rejection</u> (unnecessary scars)

2. ***How far away from the cliff will we build a fence?*** (Biblical boundaries for sex)
- C. Some not called to get married...
1. Marriages are delayed today - *co-habitation*; can’t find a mate - *unequally yoked*
 2. Still others are called by God – the Eunuch – Matthew 19:12
 - a. Some are born that way – without the ability to procreate
 - b. Some are made that way by men – castration was common in Rome
 - c. Some choose to stay single as a calling from God – *married to Christ*

II Marriage as the foundation of the family – PowerPoint slides 10-11

- A. How is marriage the foundation of a family?

1. God first introduced the family in Genesis 2:24 with marriage
 2. If we can't get along in a marriage, it is harder in the family with children
 3. A marriage models proper relationships for children – learn by example
 4. Marriage is a picture of Christ and the Church – beyond family; multi-generational
- B. Marriage is the platform, the stage, the backdrop, theater, environment for the home
1. Marriage teaches us about authority and submission
 2. It teaches about calling and purpose
 3. It sets the stage for the disciplines necessary to maintain priorities
 4. It trains us in good communication skills
 5. It helps us model honor, respect and proper attitudes

III Key Ingredients in a Successful Marriage – Ephesians 5:21-33 – PowerPoint slides 12-18

- A. Authority and Submission – Government – Ephesians 5:21-25 (Adams p. 88-89)
1. *Submit* (hear God) through each other – a heart attitude of brokenness
 2. Wives *submit* to your own husbands – willing to *live* (bless) your husband...
 3. As Christ leads the Church, the husband is to lead his wife (submissive attitude)
 4. Husbands, love your wives – *agape*, willing to *die* (to self) for your wife
- B. God's Call and Purpose for Marriage – Ephesians 5:26-27
1. To give an accurate picture of Christ and the Church (or an individual)
 - a. Sanctify (to make holy) – consecrate or change to become glorious, holy
 - b. Cleanse (to make clean) - purge, purify, make clean (confess wrongdoing)
 - c. Washing (a bath) of the Word – grow in obedience to the Scriptures
 2. Husband and wife are to inspire each other live “without blemish”
 3. Without blemish means forgiven, without blame means without sin (impossible)
- C. Discipline and Priorities in Marriage – Ephesians 5:28-29
1. Husbands love your wives as their own bodies (and reciprocated) – love himself
 2. Loving self is not selfishness in context – but a self-preservation – you do it first
 - a. Physically - in sexual relations – never forced, but consensual.
 - b. In finances – priorities – three tithes of the Bible – sanctuary, education, poor
 - c. In time – again, through discussion and resolution...
 4. Psalm 119:100-104 reminds us that we must not go “off the main route”
- D. Communication in Marriage – Ephesians 5:30-32
1. Fellowship – *koinonia* – “members of one another” - partnership – the “we feeling”
 2. Commitment to communicate – to see the other one's point of view
 - a. Spiritually – sharing what God is saying through His Word / Voice
 - b. Socially – planning things together, no big surprises, resolving disagreements
 - c. Practically – scheduling, altering plans based on priorities...
 3. Encouragement – not constant criticism – quote Kennedy, pages 43-44; 46-47 on “faultfinding” vs. “goodfinding”
- E. Honoring One another – Ephesians 5:33
1. To protect one another in public – sharing the best
 - a. The husband is to honor his wife – the Ephesians 5 husband
 - b. The wife is to respect her husband – the Proverbs 31 woman
 2. The “pride” of a husband is a wife that is respected and honored by others
 3. The “pride” of a wife is a husband who is honored and respected in public
 4. This implants a standard for our children – model Matthew 18:15-17
 - a. To love, accept and respect others – regardless of who they are

b. To only get involved in adjustment when the time is right