

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: GOD'S DIRECTIVE FOR MARRIAGE

Introduction: The "Magna Charta" of Marriage *Gen 2:24*

Leave: Your Marriage Creates a New Family Unit

- A. Your marriage takes priority over any other human relationship.
 - 1. Even the parent-child relationship is temporary and changing.
 - 2. This truth is reflected in the wedding ceremony: the giving away of the bride.
 - 3. Grown children should still honor their parents. *Exod 20:12; Mark 7:9-13*
- B. Failing to leave (or let go) is a violation of God's design.
 - 1. Geographically: Is it wrong to live in proximity to family members?
 - There are problems when married children live under their parents' roof
 - There are situations in which grown children should take care of their aged parents.
Mark 7:9-13; 1 Tim 5:8

2. Economically: Is it wrong for parents to help out their children? *2 Cor 12:14*

- Young people should not get married until they are ready to take on the responsibilities of marriage. *Eph 5:29*

- Sometimes money comes with strings attached.

- Under some circumstances it can be appropriate for parents to help their children.

3. Emotionally: You can't go back to your mother.

- Some parents won't let go.

- The harm of a child-centered home.

- The best thing you can do for your kids is to invest in your own marriage.

Cleave: Your Marriage is a Lifelong Covenant of Companionship

A. Marriage is permanent: "Until death do us part".

1. Marriage is a commitment (contract).

- The bond that unites a man and woman is not metaphysical, but covenantal.

- Remember your wedding vows. *Ps 15:4*

2. The key to staying together is to eliminate the option of separation or divorce.

3. Marriage is not eternal. *Matt 22:30*

B. Marriage is designed by God to be the most intimate of human relationships.

1. Your spouse is to be your best friend: companion and “helper”. *Gen 2:18*

2. It takes time and effort to build intimacy: communication.

- Quantity and quality time.

- Learn to listen. *Jas 1:19; Phil 2:1-5; Prov 20:5*

- Learn to express yourself lovingly and openly. *Eph 4:29*

C. Violations of God's design.

1. A low view of the marriage covenant going into the marriage.

2. Divorce. *Matt 19:3-9; Mal 2:14-16*

- “No fault divorce” compounds the problem.
- Divorce is also widespread in the evangelical church.
- God allows protection for the innocent party when their spouse breaks the marriage covenant through adultery or abandonment. *Matt 5:32; 19:9; 1 Cor 7:15-16*

3. Separation: legal or otherwise. *Matt 19:6; 1 Cor 7:2-5; 1 Pet 3:7*

4. Lack of communication and love in marriage. *Prov 17:27-28; 18:2; 10:8; 27:2; Eph 4:29*

One Flesh: Your Marriage Is the Only Place Where God's Gift of Sex Is to Be Enjoyed

A. Why did God create sex? *Heb 13:4*

1. The key to understanding sexual morality is to positively affirm what sex is for.
2. The physical union is a symbolic expression of the marriage covenant. *Gen 2:24; 4:1*
3. Sexual union in marriage is meant to produce children. *Gen 1:27-28; Ps 127*

- Children are a blessing from God.
 - God wisely puts children into families to be raised by a mother and a father.
 - We are called to fill the earth.
4. The physical union in marriage is meant by God to be pleasurable for both the husband and the wife. *Deut 24:5; Prov 5:18-19; Heb 13:4; Song of Solomon*
 5. We need to teach our children a healthy biblical view of sex.
- B. Any other sexual expression is a violation of God's design. *Ecc 7:29; Rom 1:18-32*
1. Lust: fantasies and pornography. *Matt 5:27-28; Jas 1:15; Job 31:1; 2 Sam 11:2*
 2. Fornication: Seeking the privileges of marriage without taking on the obligations. Sex between a man and a woman who are not yet married. *Heb 13:4*
 3. Adultery: A married person having sex with anyone other than his or her spouse. *Exod 20:14; 1 Cor 6:16; Prov 7:27*
 4. Other sexual perversions: homosexuality, etc.

Concluding Applications: What God Has Joined Let No Man Separate!

Matt 19:6

A. Do your part to protect marriage. God is involved in every marriage.

1. Romance is for marriage. If you are single, protect your upcoming marriage by not “leaving, cleaving, and one-fleshing” before you are married.

2. Marriage is for romance. If you are married, protect your marriage.

- Positively: Invest time and effort in marriage relationship: Enjoy the blessings God has given you.

B. Relate to one another by grace.

1. Love your fellow sinner

2. Give to your spouse the overwhelming grace that God gives you

- Christ does not treat you as your sins deserve but rather loves you as His spotless bride.

C. The gospel is the best hope for marriage



Books

Harvey, Dave, *When Sinners Say I Do*.

Keller, Tim, *The Meaning of Marriage*.

Tripp, Paul, *What Did You Expect?*



Audios

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Grace."

Harvey, Dave. "When Sinners Say I Do – Sin."