

THE SACREDNESS OF THE MARRIAGE BOND

Because marriage is holy, those going into it should be holy. The sacredness or mystery in the marriage bond, the fact that it is God who joins couples is highlighted by Agur the prophet in Proverbs 30:18,19.

Among the laws of God on marriage was that a believer should not marry an unbeliever as the tendency is there for the man or woman to turn the other away from the faith. (Deuteronomy 7:3, 4) Those who are single should not rush to marry anyone they see due to impatience or infatuation. The servant of Abraham prayed for God to prosper his journey to find a wife for Isaac, his master's son. – Genesis 24:11-14.

The success of marriage does not depend on how flamboyant the wedding is but the level of understanding between the couple and their godly disposition. Also marital partners should not be chosen based only on monetary considerations. As far as marriage is concerned each person should look well before leaping and should pray to God for guidance. (Proverbs 31:10-12) "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6) Some men because of lust jump from one woman to the other. God wants the husband to treat their wives well in the fear of God and the wives should obey and respect their husbands as this makes for peace and gives glory to God." – 1 Peter 3:7; Genesis 3:16; Colossians 3:18,19.

A man should not marry the sister or relation of his wife as long as the wife is still alive. The Bible also outlaws homosexuality, which is a common practice in various countries today. – Leviticus 18: 1, 2, 18, 22, 29.

The permanency of the bond of marriage is such that said that the Bible strictly forbids divorce. – 1 Corinthians 7:10-14; Matthew 19:5-9; See also Malachi 2:16,17 from the *Living Bible*.

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." – Hebrews 13:4.