Marriage is the Institution of God

God instituted marriage to prepare us for the “**Blessed Hope**”

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope”…

**Jesus must be first in all that we do.**

Rev. 19:7—*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour* ***to him:*** *for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

8*—And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

Mat. 22:2—*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*

2Cor. 11:2*—For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

1. All good marriages take working together through prayer.
   1. How can we work together effectively?
      1. Pray on it.
      2. Think it through.
      3. Say it, do it and pray it through.

* A Family that prays together stays together.
  1. What should we actually do to make things better?
     1. From good to better.
     2. From better to best.

Pray it through, good times hard times pray to pray through.

1. All good marriages have a purpose.

The Will of God is more important than anything else in your life.

Seeds of distress can be early in the marriage and, in many cases, before the couple even says, “I do.”

Saying “I do” is time to put full love into action together into the call of God.

I Thes. 5:21—*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

Put your love in action and keep it right there no matter what.

True love never dies even when severely tested.

**The husband and wife are equally called to the Service of the Lord.**

* **Become a student of your marriage.**

1Peter 3:7—*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to* ***knowledge****, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being* ***heirs together*** *of the* ***grace of life****; that your prayers be not hindered.*

1 Peter 3:7 calls them the weaker vessel, and tells us **to honor them as such**.

"Weaker" does not mean inferior, but "weaker" as in the way a tooth pick compares to a crowbar.

True, a crowbar will not break as easily as a tooth pick, but there are a lot of things a tooth pick can do that a crowbar can't do without hurting somebody.

So learn what those differences are, and honor your wife.

Women are very, very different from men in a lot of ways.

Recognize that your wife, by design, reveals a different dimension of the image of God than you.

**Learn everything you can about your marriage**. Read and study your Bible always pray about this relationship; show your personal happiness, not look to find happiness but look to bring your happiness into the marriage no matter what.

* **Become a student of your wife.** observe her, study her, and learn what she loves and what she hates and what hurts her and what thrills her.

**Be patient.** She is different than you. As she needs to be changed, you will do that not by being harsh with her or by criticizing her, prying and picking away. You will change her by your unconditional love and adoration. Think about it, that's how Jesus changes us. He accepts and loves us into His image as we learn to fully obey Him. Paul tells us to love our wives like that.

Eph 5:22—*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

* **Your primary role is to love her not control her.**

Titus 2:5—*To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

Praise her, extol her virtues. Notice the strengths and assume the weaknesses and not *visa versa*. Over time, the love you show her and the model you are to her will produce more change in her than one of your brilliantly crafted lectures.

* **God's purpose for you in your marriage is to teach you to love like He does**.

Ephesians 5:25—*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

* **Meditate on the Gospel**. As Paul shows us in Ephesians 5:22-31, it is only by knowing Christ's love for you that you can love her properly. Think on it often, and love your wife as you have been loved.

Marriage is sacred, ordained of God from the beginning of creation of man. After creating Adam and Eve, the Lord God pronounced them husband and wife.

Gen. 2:23—*And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.* 24*—Therefore shall a* ***man*** *leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his* ***wife****: and they shall be one flesh.* 25*—And they were both naked, the* ***man and his wife****, and were not ashamed.*

Mark 10:7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. Eph. 5:31—*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

The first law of marriage declares that marriage as a lifetime covenant, until death do us part.

Marriage is primarily designed so that a man and woman become one flesh to worship and fellowship with God.

Marriage is a Divinely instituted Spiritual Union.

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

A Man and his wife are to have children and as they have a child they become father and mother and as the children grow and become husband and wife they are to have children and they grow and become father and mother and as the Family’s grow so does the responsibilities for each family.

A Family to a Nation where there is definite links but also definite distinctions. Strong, stable families, headed by a father and mother, are the anchor of civilized society.

Marriage is never to be treated lightly.

All problems must be worked out and never abandoned.

**Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage**

1. **God’s will concerning Marriage –**

Mat. 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

Gen. 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and **they shall be one flesh.**

* In Marriage man (**cleaves to his wife**) – a mental and emotional union
* Man and Woman become one flesh**. – Body, Mind and Soul.**
* **It takes God to** join together a spiritual union.

1. **Man is commanded not to divorce his wife.** The burden is on the man not to put away (Divorce) his wife.

Luke 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Mark 10:11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 1Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

1. **The one cause for divorce.**

Mat. 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except** it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Jesus uses the two different terms in this passage “fornication” and “adultery.” Each term has a specific meaning which follows through the scriptures, and is to be determined by the following rules.

1.) A married person is never said to commit fornication. 2.) An unmarried person is never said to commit adultery.

What Jesus said is; if a man married a woman and she had been secretly unfaithful before marriage and she was found not to be a virgin, he could put her away at the time of consummating the marriage.

* + Fornication---an unmarried person

Deut. 22:28 If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; 29 Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days. Ex 22:16 And if a man entice a maid that is not betrothed, and lie with her, he shall surely endow her to be his wife. 17 If her father utterly refuse to give her unto him, he shall pay money according to the dowry of virgins.

* + Adultery---a married person

Deut. 22:22 If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel. Lev. 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. Hosea 3:1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. 2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: 3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. There are different terms used all from the -same Hebrew word-“Zanah” Whore-harlot-fornication. Ge34:31;38:24; Jos.6:17; I Kings 3:16; Ho 4:13-14; ICo7:2; He 13:4

Also, the fact that both “fornication and “adultery” occur together four times in separate lists of sin, shows conclusively that there is a specific distinction between them.

**Mat. 15:19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: **Mark 7:21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

**1Cor. 6:9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

**Gal. 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

If “fornication” is never used in other places of immorality by the married, their marital status is in view (as it obviously is in the two occurrences of the exception clause); then logically it is not used there. In which case, the immorality for which Christ allowed divorce would only be premarital, referred to in Deut.22:13-21 Mat. 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1. **Jesus’ reply to the Pharisees in Matthew 19 covered three main topics.** 1.) The rule of permanence of the marriage union – Mat. 19:4-6 2.) The rule of exception, which by its very nature posed a situation which could only be known after the woman had actually been intimate as a wife - or shown to be with child. Deut. 22:13-21 3.) Jesus gives recognition to this possibility, but at the same time making it clear that adultery is not a legitimate cause for divorce in His kingdom amongst His saints. Believers should be able to work out their own problems.
2. **Four reasons Jesus gave no approval of divorce for those on the spiritual level of His kingdom - (Born again Believers)**

Mt 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the **hardness of your hearts** suffered you to put away your wives: but **from the beginning it was not so**. Referring to (Deut. 24:1)-After conversion- 1.) **Responsibility** – We have, as believers, a responsibility to walk in the light of God’s Word. 2.) **Resources** – We have the availability of spiritual means in dealing with marriage problems on the kingdom level.

Mat. 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

1. **Reconciliation** – It is better to forgive for immorality of any nature, and seek reconciliation, than to destroy the marriage union.

Mark 11:25 And … forgive, if ye have ought against any:

1Cor. 7:11 But and if she depart**, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband:** and let not the husband put away his wife.

1. **Recognition** – The instruction to the church to “purge out the old leaven of sin” leaves no place among Believers for any divorce provision, so long as they continue in the Church as a child of God. Mat. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:7-11

The Churches Authority to judge matters must be recognized by the believers.

**God has given this authority to the Church**.

I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 2:15; Gal. 6:1; Prov. 28:5; I Jn.4:1; I Thes. 5:21

1. **God’s will concerning Divorce –**

Malachi 2:16 “For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away:” (divorce)

Mat. 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses **because** of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

The Problem is in the heart.

“suffered” epitrepw epitrepo, ep-ee-trep'-oto turn over (transfer), allow:--give leave (liberty, license), let, permit, suffer.

“Hardness of your hearts” sklhrokardia sklerokardia, sklay-rok-ar-dee'-hard- ah

“heartedness, specifically of destitution of (spiritual) perception

This word was used by Jesus

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. Malachi 2:15 …”Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.” 16 “For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away … “therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.”

**1. The woman is bound to her husband –**

Rom. 7:2-3; I Cor. 7:39; Eph. 5:23

If she leaves, the man has no power to stop her. I Cor. 7:15

The burden is on putting away (divorce). Not on one that leaves.

1Cor. 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**Let not the husband divorce his wife.**

**2. The woman that leaves her husband –**If she marries again she lives in adultery. Mat.5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. Mark 10:12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery. Luke 16:18 Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

Romans 7:3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

**3. The man that divorces his wife –**

Mat.19:8 He saith unto them, Moses **because** of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, **Whosoever shall put away his wife**, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and **whoso marrieth her** which is put away doth commit adultery.

**4. Instruction to believers -**

1Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

**5. Instruction to one believer and one willing unbeliever** –

The believer must do all that is in the Word to live a Christian life, believing God for the conversion of the one unsaved. 1Cor. 7:12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? 1Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

**6. Instruction to one believer and one unwilling believer** -

1Cor. 7:15 But if the unbelieving **depart**, let him **depart**. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

We as believers are not required to force them to stay, “let them depart” Depart without all the quarraling that the world does. Do absolutely nothing to cause a separation and if they depart from you remain peaceful.

“depart” kho-rid'-zo to place room between, part; to go away: **put asunder**, separate. Mat.19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Mark10:9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

1Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. Far better it is , even with the unconverted, to work problems out so that the marriage is saved.

**No provision to divorce for believers, walking in the light of truth.**

* The saying that a man and wife are "to cleave to one another." They are to be totally united together as one flesh: "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh"
* The saying that it is God and God alone who can join together a man and a wife

Many are living together who refuse *to* cleaveand refuse to let God join them together. Man and woman can only cleave and join themselves together physically. God is not needed for a physical union. If a married couple desire more than a physical union, they must turn to God. He alone can "join together" a couple spiritually.

1. **God’s will concerning Remarriage -**

1Cor. 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

**1. Remarriage is permitted by Paul, not by commandment-**

1Cor. 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

**2. Remarriage is permitted but only to a single woman-**

Mat. 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

**3. Remarriage is permitted to a widow-**

1Cor. 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

**4. Remarriage is permitted but cannot be in the ministry-**

1.) **Pastors-**

1Tim. 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

2.) **Ministers-**

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

3.) **Deacons-**

1Tim. 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

**VI. God’s Will In Dealing With the Unsaved**

That is those that are married and divorced and remarried before salvation.

1. The Lord dealt very gracious with those that were married and Divorced And remarried before Salvation - Jn. 4: 13-19; 26

2. He also was very gracious with those caught in the act. Jn.8:4-11

3. He dealt graciously with the harlots- Mat. 21:31, 32; Lk.7:36-48

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.