

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Gen. 2:18-25

- I. TODAY MANY UNHAPPY UNFULFILLING MARRIAGES AMONG NON-CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS
 - A. Godly principles to be walked in shoe leather

- II. GOD INSTITUTED MARRIAGE
 - A. Most intimate of all relationships exemplified by relationship between Christ and the Church
 - B. Purposes for marriage
 - 1. Helpmeet - A helpful companion; team which complements each other
 - 2. Companionship - Saw man was alone
 - 3. Sexual
 - a. To meet basic needs
 - (1) To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife
 - (2) Marriage is honorable...whoremongers and adulterers God will judge
 - (3) Better to marry than to burn
 - (4) Defraud not one the other--have power of own body
 - b. Procreation
 - c. Premarital or extramarital sex no option
 - C. Not being unequally yoked together

- III. GOD'S PLAN CALLS FOR LEAVING FATHER AND MOTHER
 - A. Does not mean to abandon them
 - B. Does not mean must make great geographical move
 - C. Means your relationship to parents should be radically changed
 - 1. Establish adult relationship with them
 - 2. Must be more concerned about mate's ideas, opinions, and practices than parents
 - 3. Should not be slavishly dependent on parents for affection, approval, assistance, counsel
 - D. Should make husband/wife relationship your priority human relationship
 - 1. Should be more concerned about being good husband/wife than son/daughter
 - 2. Should as parents prepare children to leave, not stay
 - 3. Should prepare for day children leave by deepening friendship with one another
 - 4. When children marry, shouldn't try to run their lives

- IV. GOD DIRECTS HUSBAND AND WIVES TO CLEAVE TO ONE ANOTHER

- A. Means to join fast together, to glue, to cement)
- B. Myths
 - 1. *"If don't work out, can always get divorce"*
 - 2. *" Faithful until death, unless our problems are too great."*
 - 3. Marriage matter of convenience, and may only be temporary
- C. God planned marriage to be a permanent relationship
 - 1. Not matter of chance, but choice
 - 2. Not matter of convenience, but obedience
- D. Good marriage based more on commitment than feeling or animal attraction
 - 1. What brought you together in the first place?
 - 2. Woman to be faithful even though he's given to bulges, baldness, bunions, bifocals
 - 3. Man to be faithful though she loses her beauty and appeal
 - 4. To be faithful although someone more exciting comes along

V. MARRIAGE BRINGS MAN AND WOMAN TOGETHER AS ONE FLESH

- A. Joined in the Lord, become one spirit
- B. Process of becoming one soul--mind
- C. Become one flesh
 - 1. Sexual relations or physical union--initial act of becoming one flesh
 - 2. More than marriage act
 - a. Total giving of oneself to other
 - b. Bodies, possessions, ideas, abilities, problems, successes
- D. Total intimacy and deep unity do not mean total uniformity or sameness
- E. Hindrances to oneness
 - 1. Selfishness and pride
 - 2. Sin of bitterness, ingratitude, or stubbornness

VI. OUR NEED FOR JESUS

- A. To bring us into right relationship with the Lord
- B. To bring us into right relationship with one another