

UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE

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It is important that singles desiring to go into marriage have an understanding of God's original concept of marriage and principles for successful marriage, so that success will be attained in marriage and God's name glorified. In this study we are going to look at this subject hoping that you will gain insight and work with it.

Marriage is a part of normal life. Marriage consists of the blending of the lives of two individuals. Marriage is the most intimate of all human relationships. It even takes precedence over the relationship between parent and child – Gen 2: 24.

Marriage is so bound up with life that it becomes logically the most important and the most significant of all the human relationships, second only to the relation between the human being and Deity (God).

The marriage relationship is so much a part of life that success in life often depends upon success in marriage. If marriage is successful, life is full and complete, if marriage fails, life is dwarfed and crippled.

Marriage is the oldest human institution. It is older than the Church or human government. Marriage is the nucleus of the society and nation. If it fails, the society will fail. If marriage fails, it affects the church, the society and nation. This is the reason why the devil is putting up a serious fight against marriages. Ignorance of the purpose and the secrets of successful marriage has aided the devil in wrecking marriages and the larger society.

Marriage is for a lifetime - husband and wife are bound together as long as they live. It is a serious affair; one therefore requires knowledge and understanding of what marriage is, before going into it. And if you have gone into it, you need to be properly informed to be prosperous in it. And that is what we want to achieve through this study.

DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

Dictionary: - The legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife. The union of a man and woman by a ceremony in law.

Bible:

- 1. Marriage is a divine covenant of God - Mal 2:14**
- 2. Marriage is a miraculous union of a man and a woman into one body - Gen 2:23-24; Eph 5:28-33; Prov 30:18-19**
- 3. It is a life-long union - Till death do they part - 1 Cor 7:39; Rom 7:2**

Separation is discouraged and divorce not permitted for Christians - Mal 2:13-16; 1 Cor 7:10-11

4. Marriage is two people sharing their lives together in perfect love intimacy and trust in one another. The union is wonderfully, perfectly, strongly, permanently and lovingly interwoven that even God himself does not want to break any marriage, and does not encourage anybody to break any - *Mark 10:5-12; Matt 19:4-9*

IMPORTANT TRUTH ABOUT MARRIAGE

- 1.** God did not plan marriage to be between a man and many women, or a woman and many men. His plan is one man one wife (Monogamy and not polygamy) - *Matt 19:4-6; Gen 2:24*
- 2.** Marriage was designed to produce godly offspring – children within a marriage and raised by both parents in the fear of God. Marriage was designed for responsibility for the children of their sexual relationship - *Mal 2:15; 1 Cor 7:12-14*
- 3.** Marriage was designed to create a family setting where children will be trained to know and love God, understand life and the basic principles of successful living, become faithful witness for Jesus Christ, understand purpose and trained to fulfill purpose and to the building and administering of their nation and the world in general. As a result - *Prov 22:6*
 - The family is the first school of relationship every human has.
 - What happens in the family manifests in the larger society.
 - The values formed in the family is what each person takes into the larger society and lives by.
 - Any child spoilt by his family will definitely live a spoilt life, but, any child well trained will live like a well trained person.
 - They say, ‘Charity begins at home’.

PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

- 1. Companionship:** - For a man to have a companion, and a helper suited to his needs according to the purpose of God for his life - *Gen 2:18; Eccl 4:9-12*
 - a.** They share their lives together.
 - b.** They are each other’s prayer partners and the first among prayer partners.
 - c.** They are open to one another. They keep no secrets.
 - d.** They plan and execute their plans together.
 - e.** They share their ministry together.
 - f.** They understand one another so much as to trust one another, and to speak for one another. (They have one mind).
 - g.** They love and fellowship with one another.
 - h.** They share their sorrows, pains, Joy and successes together.
 - i.** They encourage and uphold one another.
 - j.** They sow and build together. They reap and enjoy together.
 - k.** They raise and train their children together.
 - l.** They fight their battles together.
 - m.** They care for one another.
 - n.** They are a team bonded together by love.
- 2. a.** To provide security both emotional and financial. Of the two types, emotional security is of greater importance to the integrity of the home.

It is the natural craving for emotional security that impels young men and women toward marriage who would not have gone into marriage because of the obligations and responsibilities involved in marriage. Emotional security comes from being able to confide in a husband or a wife and expect his/her partner to be impartial and unprejudiced, as he or she shares the problems and anxieties of the moment.

b. Marriage also provides emotional and financial security for the children who come into a home. When a child feels secure within his own home, his character and personality will develop symmetrically (emulating their parents) in spite of unfavorable external influences.

c. Another connection in which marriage should provide security is with relation to the uncertainties of old age. Marriage provides a family setting in which grown children properly assume the obligations, which the scriptures enjoin in the matter of caring for aged and feeble parents.- *1 Tim 5:4*

3. To provide the spiritual and cultural growth of all members of the family. The family is the structural unit of the community and of the nation. The spiritual and tenor of the community is an average of the families that make up the community.

4. One other purpose or function of marriage is the development and build up of good character in the children that make up the family. The generation of and distribution of those ideals of personal responsibility and participation, which provides the backbone of civilization of the society - *Prov 22:6*

5. Pro-Creation: To be fruitful, increase and multiply through child bearing - *Gen 1:28*

And through it subdue the earth - *Gen 4:1; Ps 127:3; Ps 128:3; Gen 9:1*

6. Chastity: To prevent fornication and also be free from the fire of lust - *1 Cor 7:2-9; 1 Thess 4:3-8; Prov 5:15-20*

Marriage is to satisfy biological desires in man. Man is born with certain desires that are good, holy and legitimate (e.g. sexual desires), but can only be satisfied in marriage.

- **The over-all function of marriage is to provide happiness and make life easier, sweeter and stress free.**