

## MARRIAGE – GOD’S PLAN

### Genesis 2:18-24

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Recognize the many years of marriage:
  - 1. Begin with 60 – 50- 40 – 30 – 20
  - 2. A total of some 1500 combined years of those married 20+ years.
- B. Words of Wisdom:
  - 1. Mutual respect ... Honesty ... True love ... Communicate ... Commitment
  - 2. Christian values ... Think long term ... Selfless ... Agree how to raise children
  - 3. Talk things out ... Be good friends ... Determination ... Do what is right
  - 4. No talk of divorce ... Making a choice each day
  - 5. ***Demands work.***
  - 6. ***God at the center of your life.***
- C. I have had the honor to perform 20 weddings over 35 years of ministry.
  - 1. Whether counseling with couples or performing the ceremony, I turn to the same 3 or 4 passages of Scripture.
  - 2. I would like to do that this morning, as we look at God’s plan for marriage.

#### I. GOD’S PLAN.

- A. In the Beginning...
  - 1. Genesis 1:31, and God saw all that He had created and it was very good.
  - 2. Genesis 2:18-20, no helper was found suitable for man.
  - 3. Genesis 2:21-23, God created a helpmeet for Adam.
  - 4. Genesis 2:24, leave and cleave.
    - a. They were designed for each other.
    - b. Therefore,
      - i. Man shall leave his parents.
      - ii. Cleave to a greater more fulfilling relationship with his wife.
    - c. The original plan excluded polygamy, divorce and remarriage, same sex union.
  - 5. ***One man – for one woman – for life!***
  - 6. But, what about Jacob and David, and Solomon?
    - a. It was “permitted”, but obvious consequences when leaving God’s plan.
- B. Question of Divorce. Matthew 19:3-12
  - 1. The Pharisees question divorce for any cause, vs. 3.
    - a. Context, they were testing [tempting] Him.
    - b. Their goal was not so much to find a truth, but to catch Jesus in a blunder.
  - 2. Jesus’ response:
    - a. What was God’s plan from the beginning?
    - b. One man – for one woman – for life! Genesis 1:27; 2:24
  - 3. Question regarding Moses treatment of divorce, vs. 7.
    - a. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 – the word “indecency”.
    - b. Two schools of thought:
      - i. Rabbi Shammai – conservative, “indecency” referred to adultery.
      - ii. Rabbi Hillel – liberal, “indecency” referred to anything (i.e., burning food, talking too loudly, etc.)

4. Moses *permitted* it because of hardness of heart.
  - a. ***But, it was not God's plan!***
5. Perhaps our problem today?
- C. The Better Way. Ephesians 5:22-33.
  1. Wives:
    - a. In subjection to your husbands.
    - b. Respect your husbands, vs. 33.
    - c. **AS TO THE LORD! vs. 22.**
  2. Husbands:
    - a. Love your wives, vs. 25.
    - b. **AS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH!**
  3. Love defined:
    - a. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
    - b. John 13:34 – a command!
    - c. Love is something we control, not just a feeling.
  4. Marriage is intended until death, 1 Corinthians 7:39-40 (cf. Romans 7:1-3)

## **CLOSING**

- A. Defining our problem:
  1. The Pharisees called into question Moses' take on marriage and divorce.
  2. Jesus directed their thinking back to God.
- B. Regarding marriage: To whom do we listen?
  1. Have we truly committed ourselves to living for the Lord?
  2. Or, as the Pharisees, are we still choosing our feelings over God's plan?
- C. Regarding the church:
  1. There is a tendency to choose based on what we think and convenience (i.e., instrumental music, attendance, baptism, the one church...)
  2. Is it possible that we have removed God from first place in our lives?