

Biblical Marriage

Our Biblical Worldview – part

October 11, 2020

DAY 1: What is marriage?

1. What is marriage? Ever since the beginning of human history everyone in the world knew the answer. It was true long before the first book of the bible was written. But in today's culture the question of what is marriage is more and more hotly debated.

2. In addition to being hotly debated it is also a highly personal and emotionally charged topic. Parents have sons or daughters that have come out as gay. Perhaps you have a friend or colleague who is gay. Does the bible endorse same-sex marriage?

3. In our highly charged culture it is difficult to approach this topic without bias. However, our task is to present what the bible says about marriage. What is marriage? Is there a design to marriage?

4. Now, there are two definitions of marriage in western culture:

- A lifelong union between two sexually different people.

5. This definition has been the standard bearer in both secular and religious cultures, in highly civilized and highly uncivilized cultures, and in highly educated and uneducated cultures. What we call the “nuclear family” has been around a long time.

6. In the last decade, a second definition has emerged in western nations.

- A lifelong union between two consenting people.

7. The 2015 Supreme Court case made the second definition legal. If marriage is not defined by two people of a different sex, then same-sex unions are now considered legal marriages.

8. Before we ask the question, can two people of the same sex get married, three other questions should be considered first.

- a. What is your definition of marriage? Do you agree with the first or second definition?
- b. Where do you get your definition from?
- c. How does Scripture inform your definition of marriage?

9. How would you answer these three questions?

DAY 2: What does the book of Genesis teach us about marriage?

1. In the Genesis 1 creation account the theme is unity among differences. Through the days of creation you see heaven and earth, evening and morning, land and sea, day and night, plant life and animal life, light and darkness—different aspects of God’s creation playing different roles in declaring God’s glory.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2. We see the great complementarity of God’s creation, the unity of heaven and earth. Male and female is not some tack on. It is foundational, unity among difference.

3. Genesis 2 is a closer look at Genesis 1. The sex differences are explained and celebrated explicitly.

*Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **helper suitable** for him."*

- “Helper suitable”

4. “Helper” means someone complementary to the original. Some in our secular culture take this “helper” role to mean “inferior to men.” That is NOT what is being taught. The word for helper is most often used of God Himself, particularly in providing military intervention against Israel’s enemies! God is certainly not inferior to anyone or anything!

5. “Suitable” - (kenegdo) It is made up of two Hebrew words.

- a. “Ki” means like, as, or similar.
- b. “Neged” means opposite or against. Eve (and every daughter of Eve) is made a different kind of human being from Adam (and every son of Adam).

6. The combination of the two words encompasses Eve’s similarity to Adam and her difference!

7. Eve is similar to Adam in that she is human. But she’s different than Adam since she’s _____ . How would you complete that sentence?

8. What makes the same as Adam is her humanness, made in the image of God. What makes her different? Her *femaleness*!

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Unity and diversity

1. This is the clearest verse on marriage in the bible.

Genesis 2:23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

²⁴(Therefore) For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

2. Don't miss how this verse starts. What is the logical connection between v. 23 and v.24?

3. The answer is similarity and difference. Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh reflects Adam's similarity to Eve. Eve and Adam are similar because they are human. Then, "she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man." This is a statement about difference. The most visible and obvious being the sex difference.

4. The bible takes the common humanity and sex difference of Genesis 2:23 and bakes it into the very meaning of marriage expressed in Genesis 2:24.

5. Adam and Eve are not just "two consensual adults who love each other." Though they are both humans they are also precisely two different kinds of humans.

6. When Jesus quotes this verse He emphasizes the sex difference even more than its original context.

Matthew 19:4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

7. Instead of connecting Genesis 2:24 with Genesis 2:23, Jesus goes back to Genesis 1:27.

Gen. 1:27 "...the Creator made them male and female..."

8. The "two" like its original context in Genesis 2 are "male and female." It is not simply two consensual people. It is the union of two sexually different persons.

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Marriage roles reflected in complementary gender

1. When people think of “roles” in marriage their minds may go back to their own parents and the roles they played in their marriage. Often we think of “roles” as tasks. For example, in my childhood home my mom stayed at home and raised three kids. My dad worked 70 hours a week. My mother did virtually all the cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping, and helping us with school. She drove us to our lessons, practices, and games.

2. But that example is **NOT** what the bible means about marital “roles” in marriage!

3. Instead of tasks, the roles the bible points to have to do with **relational** roles. How is a masculine human supposed to relate to his wife? And how is a feminine human supposed to relate to her husband?

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² *Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- ³⁰ for we are members of his body.*

³¹ *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

4. Let's summarize this passage.

a. Both husband and wife are to submit to one another (v. 21)

b. The husband is “head” of the wife. The bible describes leadership as *servant leadership*. “Headship” does not mean privileges, power and perks. Instead it means sacrifice and service. (This is the opposite meaning from which our secular culture ridicules Christian marriage. They misunderstand this very badly).

c. The husband is to sacrificially love his wife. Our model is Christ, laying his life for us.

d. The wife is to “submit” to her husband. As the husband is to sacrifice his pride in leading his family, a wife sacrifices her pride in order to enable them both to become a ***team*** of equals. She is not meant to bear the anxiety of family life. That is his to bear. She is meant to enjoy relational security.

e. Finally, the deepest need of the wife is unconditional love, while the deepest need of the husband is respect. As husband and wife grow spiritually, they will learn how to relate more in line with God's design for marriage. The long-term goal is to reflect the love of God to each other through their different gender with the result being the deepest human intimacy possible.

5. What strikes you about **relational** roles?

DAY 5: How does the bible speak to sex outside of marriage?

1. Sex:

- a. Is a sacred gift of God to a husband and wife,
- b. Is meant to be enjoyed only with your husband or wife,
- c. Provides the means to create children
- d. Illustrates:
 - (1) The complementary nature of marriage,
 - (2) The abandoning of ourselves only to one another.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

2. Whenever we follow our fallen nature the results will eventually always *fall short* of God's design and loving purpose for us. We eventually suffer the consequences of our foolish and sinful choices. This applies in all realms of life, including marriage and sex outside of marriage.

4. **What does the bible say about same-sex relationships?** All sin outside of God's will and design is wrong. And, all sin is equally wrong even when the consequences for some sin bring more misery and pain than others.

Romans 1:26 NIV) Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

1 Timothy 1:9-10 Understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and others, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who have sex with males, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.

1 Cor. 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who have sex with males, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

5. A few observations:

- a. Same-sex sexual relationships are clearly wrong.
 - b. They are **not** more wrong than other sins, being listed *among* sins that our culture deems "worse" and others deemed "not so bad."
 - c. There are clear warnings and consequences.
6. Notice what follows after 1 Cor. 6:9-10!!!! There is hope for anyone!!!

1 Corinthians 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.