

## **MARRIAGE: GOD'S GIFT TO MAN & WOMAN (GEN. 2:24)**

### *Introduction*

1. **Gen. 2:24** Marriage is God's gift to man & woman
2. Seek to better understand this gift:
  - a. What God did in the beginning
  - b. Includes the gift of children
  - c. Means two friends in love
  - d. Permanent relationship
  - e. Ordained of God as holy & honorable
3. The better we understand it, the more we value it:
  - a. Show God we are thankful!
  - b. Fulfill our duties to God & to our mates!
  - c. Cultivate the relationship!

### **I. In the Beginning**

- A. **Gen. 1:1, 24-27** Man & Woman Unique: In God's Image

#### **PERSON & NATURE OF GOD**

Father, Son, Holy Spirit  
Spirit  
Intelligence  
Moral choice  
Emotion  
Fellowship

#### **PERSON & NATURE OF MAN**

Male, Female  
Spirit  
Intelligence  
Moral choice  
Emotion  
Fellowship

- B. **Gen. 2:18-24** Woman: God's Crowning Work— She Has No Equal in Her Role!
  1. Marriage vows unite male & female in a sacred covenant: commitment not convenience!
  2. Leave: new independent home
  3. Cleave: cemented together for life
  4. One flesh: two people united as one
- C. Cultivate the Garden of Marriage!

### **II. The Gift of Children**

- A. God Ordained Birth & Nurturing of Children in Marriage
  1. Child needs father & mother
  2. Deepens fellowship of marriage
  3. Enriches character of parents
  4. Perpetuates mankind
- B. **Ps. 127:3-5** Children: A Heritage, A Reward from God
  1. Home stronger, happier with children
- C. **Eccl. 4:9-12** God Blesses Father, Mother, & Child in This Intimate Relationship

### **III. Friends in Love**

- A. **Song of Sol. 2:7** Song of Solomon Celebrates Steadfast Love from Courtship to Marriage.
- B. **Song of Sol. 8:6-7** The Bride Extols the Value of True Love.
- C. Experiences of Friendship Deepen in Marriage.
  1. **Prov. 18:22** Marriage God's gift, celibacy not greater gift or higher calling
  2. **Prov. 18:24** "All weather" not "fair weather" friend
  3. **Prov. 13:20** Choose carefully: friends influence friends
  4. **Prov. 27:17** Share, test ideas—constructive criticism

#### IV. Permanent

A. **Mal. 2:13-16** God Hates Divorce.

B. Lawful to Divorce for Every Cause?

1. Annie's Mailbox: man divorce dying wife, marry Cora (Louisville Courier-Journal, 9-1-03)

2. **Matt. 19:3-9** Jesus' answer different: such a man goes to the bed of adultery

C. "Except It Be for Fornication"

1. *Porneia* (Greek word translated "fornication): unlawful sexual intercourse in general

a. Fornication includes harlotry, prostitution, adultery, incest, homosexual acts, unlawful marriages, & all such "sexual intercourse" in gen. without more precise

definition" (Kittel, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* VI:584, 587)

D. God's Gift of Marriage Given to a Man & a Woman:

1. If never before married (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5)

2. If mate died (Rom. 7:2-3)

3. If divorce mate for fornication (Matt. 19:9)

E. God Does Not Sanction Man's Sinful Desires:

1. Easy divorce (Mal. 2:16; Matt. 19:3-9)

2. Homosexual acts: against nature (Rom. 1:26-27)

#### V. Marriage Holy, Honorable

A. **Heb. 13:4** When God Joins a Man & a Woman, Marriage Is Holy, Honorable.

B. Look to God for Guidance

1. **Eph. 5:22-33** Roles given to husband & wife

2. **Col. 3:18-21** Duties of parents & children

C. Divine Law Overrides Human Law & Social Standards.

1. God gave man & woman marriage:

a. NOT bestiality

b. NOT fornication outside marriage

c. NOT adultery in violation of marriage vows

d. NOT homosexual acts

e. NOT incest

f. NOT pedophilia

g. NOT pornography

h. NOT divorce on demand

#### Conclusion:

1. Cultivate the garden of marriage!

2. It is time for our nation to repent—or face God's judgment!

3. It is time for each sinner to repent & obey the gospel:

a. **Jn. 3:16** Christ, perfect sacrifice for our sins

b. **Acts 2:38** Repent & be baptized

c. **2 Thess. 1:7-9** Reject gospel, punished in flaming fire for eternity