

“MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Sex is for marriage. Despite the pressures throughout society – from peers, on screen, and in print – to surrender virginity at the earliest opportune moment, God only blesses human sexuality within the confines of wedlock. *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4). One major purpose of marriage is the prevention of illicit intercourse. *“Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband”* (1st Corinthians 7:2). So, it is important within this blessed relationship to make use of the benefit God intends. *“Rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love”* (Proverbs 5:18-19).

Marriage is for a man and a woman. Jesus preached, *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’”* (Matthew 19:4-5). *“Male and female,”* not male and male or female and female. Homosexuality is absolutely condemned in Scripture (Romans 1:26-27; 1st Corinthians 6:9-11; 1st Timothy 1:10). *“Two shall become one flesh,”* and no other numerical arrangement will satisfy God. *“If, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress”* (Romans 7:3).

Marriage is for life. Divorce dishonors God’s plan. *“A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife”* (1st Corinthians 7:10-11). While a couple the Lord has joined must remain married as long as both live, once one dies, the bond is severed and the other is free to marry again. *“If the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband”* (Romans 7:1). Marriage is for life, but not longer, not eternal. *“In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven”* (Matthew 22:30).

Marriage is for togetherness. Jehovah’s observation upon creating man was, *“It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him”* (Genesis 2:18). Companionship is the purpose, so husband and wife need to spend their time in one another’s company. *“Live joyfully with the wife whom you love”* (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

JESUS GIVES THANKS

Jacob Hudgins

Matthew records Jesus feeding the 4000 ((Matthew 15:29-39)) on a different occasion from feeding the 5000 (14:15-21). Some of the details are different—the number of fish and baskets—but the basic need of people who have come out to hear the word is the same.

“He took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them” (15:36). Giving thanks is a habit Jesus has. *“He looked up to heaven and said a blessing”* (14:19). *“Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it”* (26:26). *“And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them”* (26:27).

These meals all have special spiritual significance, but Jesus has a practice of thanking God before eating. Jesus is often the one investing these meals with special meaning, but still he gives thanks to God. Eating is a way we receive strength to continue life. By acknowledging God as we eat, we remember that it is by his power and grace that we continue to live.

But giving thanks must be more than a ritual. It is a sincere expression of gratitude for God’s constant provision.

USEFUL DISTINCTIONS

Author Unknown

1. Men are not women.
2. Women are not men.
3. Children are not parents.
4. Pets are not children.
5. Boyfriends and girlfriends are not husbands and wives.
6. The internet is not the church.
7. Words are not guns.
8. Feelings are not facts.
9. Creatures are not the Creator.
10. Sin is not righteous.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.

Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"If you're hanging by a thread,
make sure it's attached to the
hem of His garment."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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THE SAVIOR

Bryan Matthew Dockens

He is the Savior of the obedient. *"Having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"* (Hebrews 5:9). Forgiveness of sins and hope of eternal life are not bestowed on the stubborn and rebellious, but upon those who submit willingly to the Master's commands (2nd Corinthians 10:5). The gospel must be obeyed (Romans 10:16; 2nd Thessalonians 1:8). The truth must be obeyed (1st Peter 1:22). Those who assert that salvation is by faith alone, without any action required do not gain everlasting security.

He is the Savior of the body. *"Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"* (Ephesians 5:23). No sinner is saved outside the body. The body is the church (Colossians 1:18, 24), and there is only one body (Ephesians 4:4). Thus, Jesus only saves those who are in His church. Access to that body is by baptism (1st Corinthians 12:13), the same means whereby sin is shed (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and Christ is joined (Romans 6:3-6; Galatians 3:27).

He is the Savior of the world. *"The Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world"* (1st John 4:14). As the above references indicate, conditions must be met in order to be saved. Nonetheless, salvation is available to absolutely every soul. *"There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all"* (Colossians 3:11).

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