

MARRIAGE

I. WHY MARRY?

A. **Genesis 2:18-23**

The reason a man ought to marry is that the first thing God observed to be less than good was a solitary man. Companionship in marriage is the Lord's solution to a basic problem.

B. **1st Corinthians 11:8-9**

The reason a woman ought to marry is to fulfill her purpose in creation. Modernists resist this fundamental reality at their own peril.

C. **1st Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4**

Sexual fulfillment is a biological urge common to humanity and nearly all animals, but it is sinful outside the protected borders of matrimony. Thus, marriage affords the only divinely approved relationship in which sex can be enjoyed.

D. **Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 128**

Because sex is reserved to wedlock, procreation needs to be limited to that holy institution, and God does intend for mankind to reproduce.

II. WHEN IS BEST TO MARRY?

A. **Proverbs 5:18**

Marriage in youth is good.

B. **Proverbs 13:12**

Delay causes heartsickness. It is better for emotional health to receive this blessing early.

C. **1st Corinthians 7:9**

The longer a couple waits, the more prone to temptation they will be.

D. **Psalm 127:3-5; Genesis 18:11**

It is a blessing to have children while young. Delaying marriage, particularly for the woman, could decrease the potential for producing offspring.

E. 1st Corinthians 7:39; Genesis 25:20; Ruth 3:9-11

None of the foregoing is meant to suggest that older folks should not marry, only that, in most cases, marrying young is optimal. Widows can marry and usually should do so if the opportunity presents. Isaac had reached what we would consider mid-life when he got married. Boaz was at least a generation older than his wife Ruth.

III. WHO SHOULD MARRY?

A. Genesis 2:24

Marriage is two persons, a man and a woman, becoming one, exclusive of their parents.

B. Romans 1:24-28

Man and woman means man and woman. Homosexuality is always sinful.

C. Genesis 4:19-24; 16:1-4

Polygamy appears to have been the innovation of a certain man known for brutality, not godliness. When it was first practiced by a man of God, it was in circumvention of a divine plan, an expression of impatience with the Lord.

D. Matthew 19:7-8; Acts 17:30

God tolerated certain practices concerning marriage in ancient times, but it does not mean He approved them, nor that He designed them to be so. What God formerly overlooked must now be repented of.

E. Proverbs 5:15-20

The idea of open marriages and orgies is grossly immoral.

F. 1st Peter 3:1, 7; 1st Timothy 3:11; 1st Corinthians 9:5

Ideally, marriage will be between a woman who is a Christian and a man who is a Christian. When a woman has an unbelieving husband, she must work carefully to win him by her quiet conduct. When a man has an unbelieving

wife, prayers are hindered because they are not joint heirs of grace. The man married to an unbeliever is disqualified from the office of elder and deacon, and does not have the same rights as preachers with wives who are faithful.

G. 1st Corinthians 7:12-16

Marriage to an unbeliever is not a sin to repent of, but it is an imprudent choice, best avoided.

IV. HOW LONG SHOULD MARRIAGE LAST?

A. Matthew 22:23-30

Marriage does not outlast life on earth.

B. Romans 7:2-3

Because marriage ends at death, the survivor is free to marry again. And, because marriage ends at death, divorce is implicitly forbidden.

C. Malachi 2:16; Mark 10:11-12

God hates divorce. The outcome is wrong on multiple levels.

D. Matthew 5:32

There is only one cause for divorce that the Lord permits.

V. WHAT SHOULD MARRIAGE BE?

A. Ephesians 5:22-33

The relationship between husband and wife ought to be a true reflection of the relationship between Christ and His church. The wife respects her husband and submits to him while the husband loves his wife, leads her, and protects her.

B. Colossians 3:18-19; Proverbs 21:19; 25:24; 27:15

Neither bitterness nor contention should characterize the marital relationship.

C. Titus 2:4

It is not just men who must love their wives, but also women must love their husbands.

D. 1st Peter 3:1-7; Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 19:14

It is not only women who must respect their husbands, but also men must honor their wives.

E. Proverbs 31:10-12

Men must trust their wives and women must do that which is deserving of trust.