

## Marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

“Till death do us part, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health, so help us God”, is still biblical today. It hasn’t changed. (**Husband and wife, man and a woman who become one before God.**) **Hebrews 13:4 (NET)**<sup>13:4</sup> Marriage must be honored among all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

Do you remember how last week we discussed how our body as a Christian is a temple for the glory of God, with the Holy Spirit residing in every born-again person?

- Paul begins to answer questions from some of the people at the Church of Corinth. (In chapter 7, the question of immorality as it pertains to a Christian and marriage. (Certainly, the non-Christian isn’t too worried about God’s ways.)
  - This, like every situation for a Christian requires spiritual discernment.
  - If your worldview comes from the latest news report, or tv program, movie, or song, then you will be “sifted like wheat” in your thinking. (**God does things well and in order.**)
- 1.) Christians marry Christians- (1 Corinthians 7:1-11) *The “before Christ” Corinthian was used to a **polygamy and temple of Aphrodite prostitution culture**.* (Certainly, was not honoring to the life of a woman in that culture)
    - a.) Being single is not a curse. (We live in times of giftedness) It is not ultra, or sub spirituality. (It is in the framework of God’s direction for a life.)
    - b.) The Christian that is single and chooses fornication shows a disdain for God’s direction in their life. (How many “cave in’s” due to ungodly pressure occur?)

### **1 Corinthians 7:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

- c.) Looking at verse 2 makes 2 things very clear- polygamy is wrong, and so is homosexuality in God’s design. (We look at the lost and expect them to act saved, but Christians should.)
  - d.) No room for “or else” threats in a godly person. (If God has someone for you and you wander around you defraud or cheat your spouse or someone else’s) Christian marriage is certainly a loyalty designed gift from God. (**Doesn’t behave unseemly, seek it’s own, doesn’t celebrate iniquity...**).
- Spiritual is to control the physical by God’s design.
  - If you are weak, marriage can strengthen, but that is a spiritual plan itself! (Then it is not a weapon.)
  - **Best marriage advice?** (Sold out and faithful to God, both parties of the marriage.) Proper alignment. Godly people seeking God first and God bringing together.
  - **Also**, the perversion influence of porn/light on the Christian and in marriages is destroying with unreal and destructive expectation. (Not from God, it’s from Hell)
- 2.) The Christian married to the unsaved person- (12-24) It is true that people sometimes get saved after marriage therefore creating an “unequally yoked situation”.

- **But why would a saved person knowingly choose to begin an unequally yoked marriage?**
- a.) If there was a pre conversion marriage and then conversion, and then children? (The saved individual's responsibility is to love the spouse and the children to God.) This does not imply your salvation can cover the lost party's sin. (God's work)

### **1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV) Live as You Are Called**

<sup>17</sup> Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

- b.) Live according to scripture. Trust God. (Quit taking matters in our own hands!) Live your call.
- c.) If the unsaved person leaves, it usually will be unfaithfulness btw. Let them go. (Otherwise patiently carry on for God and your testimony!)
- **If the heart is right with God, so much trouble can be avoided. Optimal life!**

3.) A word to the unmarried Christian- (25-40) **Don't try to force God's hand, trust Him, that is why we have a measure of faith!**

- a.) If you are single and a Christian. Serve God singly! (Trust Him!) Matt. 6:33)
- b.) Just like if you are married, serve God collectively. (Paul says its challenging. (Harder to have two hearts lined up properly.)
- The Christian heart is to be aligned with God's heart, singularly, or collectively.
- Think about the service people during war times. New day professionals who are balancing marriage, professions and locations.
- c.) Marriage requires some real wisdom from God. Not feelings. (Why? Romantic and real life challenge can really be the pot hole that knocks wheels out of line.)
- d.) That's why, "seek ye first alignment". And if God gifts you with a spouse, that alignment should be evident, or **you should really question the source of the gift!**
- I often wonder about Peter in the bible. (Really none of my business!)

### Conclusion

- Marriage works in a properly aligned focus from the start and throughout.
- Not so much in mixed directions.
- So, it would be good to approach it more seriously than in a "burning" situation, or a "loneliness" situation. (God shaped hole.)
- Never forget as a Christian- we are temples for the Living God to dwell.
- Do you love Christ? Then align, as a single person or married.
- Don't be a missionary in the marriage arena. (We are missionaries for salvation, not partners.)
- Single or married- A lifetime commitment to Christ and His gifts and calls.