

The Divine Origin of Marriage and the Home

Introduction:

1. Hebrews 13:4: *"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*
2. Psalm 68:6: *"God setteth the solitary in families: He bringeth out those which are bound with chains; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."*
3. The home is under attack as never before in our society.
 - a. The divorce rate is at an all time high.
 - b. Many are trying to re-define "marriage," with more and more of our states, recognizing "same sex marriage." In addition to that, pre-marital sex is become increasingly the norm, and seemingly few people percentage-wise have any qualms against couples choosing to live together, but choosing not to get married.
4. However, the family constitutes the very foundation of society itself, and its break-down spells bad news for the future. From the family comes:
 - a. Tomorrow's leaders in the affairs of men.
 - b. Tomorrow's elders and deacons.
 - c. Tomorrow's preachers.
 - d. Tomorrow's citizens.

Discussion:

I. The Beginning of Marriage.

- A. Gen. 2:18, God said *"it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him."*
- B. God made *"an help meet"* (one suitable for man), Gen. 2:18,21-22.
 1. God brought her unto the man, Gen. 2:22; Adam said *"this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man,"* Gen. 2:23
- C. God willed that man should *"cleave unto his wife,"* and that *"they should be one flesh,"* Matt. 19:5.
 1. *"Cleave"* means exactly that; they were joined together. It was intended to be a permanent union of the two of them, Matt. 19:6.
 - a. This union, as God designed it, was intended to prevent easy divorce, fornication, concubinage, polygamy, homosexuality, and bestiality.
 - b. However, even those who are legitimately married often take their vows lightly. Cf. A few years ago the New Yorker Magazine featured a cartoon of a couple who had just gotten married; they looked at one another, and one said to the other: *"Darling, just think! This is our first marriage!"*
- D. The First Home contained at least four important blessings:
 1. Food, Gen. 2:8-9.
 2. Shelter – the garden of Eden.
 3. Love. Imagine how Adam must have felt when he looked upon his wife, whom he *"called...Eve, because she was the mother of all living,"* Gen. 3:20.
 - a. She had been created from a rib taken from his own side!
 4. Righteousness. At this point sin had not entered the world; both of them were in a right relationship with God.

II. The Home, As God Designed it, from the beginning is a Divine Institution.

- A. It resulted from God's plan for man, Gen. 2:18.
 1. It is the oldest institution known to man; it pre-dates the government, it pre-dates the church!
 2. Yet the church existed in the eternal purpose of God, Ephesians 3:10-11.
 - a. However, when God joined together the husband and the wife, He formed a union in which the relationship of the husband to the wife was designed to symbolize the future relationship between Christ and the church! Ephesians 5:31-32.
- B. Being a Divine Institution, it was not:
 1. A relationship which simply evolved through societal experiments.
 2. A relationship which can be re-defined by Judges, the will of the people, the President, or Congress.
- C. It began with the marriage of one male and one female, Matt. 19:4-5.
 1. It was not a homosexual relationship; God made them *"male and female,"* Matt. 19:4.
 2. It was not a polygamous relationship; God said *"they twain shall be one flesh,"* Matt. 19:5.

- D. It was to be a permanent relationship, Matt. 19:6.
 - 1. Romans 7:2.
- E. Observe: Being a divine institution, those who marry have obligations both to God and to each other.

III. The Function of the Home.

- A. To provide companionship for man, Gen. 2:18.
 - 1. God knew man's need and he knew woman's power to satisfy that need.
- B. To prevent immorality.
 - 1. I Cor. 7:2: *"Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband,"* I Cor. 7:2.
 - 2. "God placed the sexual desire within each human being, and marriage is the arena in which He planned for this desire to be fulfilled."
- C. The Procreation of children, Gen. 1:28; Psalm 127:3.
 - 1. Note also I Timothy 5:14; Heb. 13:4.
- D. The Protection of children, Eph. 6:4; I Tim. 5:8.
 - 1. Newborn babies cannot provide for themselves; they are totally dependent.
 - 2. Food must be provided, shelter must be provided, clothing must be provided.
 - 3. Human beings, at birth, are probably the most dependent of any species of life; they need care and protection.
- E. To Prepare children for Useful Roles in life.
 - 1. Through religious training, Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 3:15.
 - 2. Through proper discipline, both instructional and corrective, Prov. 22:6,15; 23:13; Eph. 6:4.
 - 3. Through the discipline of labor, Gen. 2:15; 3:17-19; 4:1-2; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:6.
 - 4. Through setting the proper example of what a husband and father ought to be, and what wife and mother ought to be, Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15; Ezekiel 16:44; 18:2,20.
- F. To Provide a foretaste of heaven!
 - 1. No one can fully comprehend the glory, beauty, and joys of heaven, Rev. 21-22.
 - 2. However, think of a Marriage and a Home functioning as God designed it:
 - a. Husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the church, Eph. 5:25.
 - b. Wives reverencing their husbands, Eph. 5:33.
 - c. Parents loving their children, Titus 2:4-5.
 - d. Children respecting their parents, Eph. 6:2.
 - 3. When all parties to home and family, in their respective roles, function as God intended it, there is happiness in the home!
 - a. Yet when they ignore their responsibilities there is misery and agony in the home!

Conclusion:

- 1. We should thank God for His wisdom, His love, and the plan He set in motion for marriage, home, and family.
- 2. And, in our family relationships, we should each commit ourselves to honoring the responsibilities God has placed upon us in those relationships.
- 3. Properly understood, and carried out, "there is no place like home!"
- 4. But there is a better "home" in the world to come than anything we have experienced in this life! Are you prepared for that heavenly home?

--Bobby Witherington, Feb. 15, 2015