

# The Honor of Marriage

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## Introduction: Why do we need to preach on this topic?

**2 Peter 1:12-13**- "For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth." NKJV

Discuss out of control marital problems in world that have crept into church

## I. What are the benefits of marriage?

### A. Physical - according to polls

1. Married people are less likely to use drugs and alcohol
2. Married people have lower suicide rates
3. Married people recover faster from illness

### B. Emotional - according to polls

1. Married people have lower rates of depression
2. Married people are more likely to be happy, hopeful and good about themselves

### C. Spiritual

**1. Genesis 2:18** - "And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." NKJV

**2. Prov. 27:17** - "As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." NKJV

**3. Prov. 18:22** - "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD." NKJV

**4. Eph. 5:23-33** - The love we have for our spouses helps us understand the love Christ has for us

i. Christ Eternal Love for us - **Matt. 22:30** - Marriage is temporary, the love of God is eternal

ii. I want to protect, shelter, care for, feed cloth, teach, comfort, build up and encourage Emily.

iii. Christ wants to do the same for me. My understanding of Christ love has deepened.

## II. Honor and privilege of marriage.

**Hebrews 13:4** - "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

**A. Why should it be honored?**

1. It is the foundation of all Honorable human endeavors

i. **Gen. 2:18, 23-24** - God created marriage

a. Marriage is the first human institution God ever created.

b. All other human institutions are supported by and rest on marriage.

2. It is the cornerstone of the family, and the family creates the next generation

i. **1 Peter 3:7** - Those married are "...heirs together of the grace of life.." NKJV

ii. **Gen. 1:27** - "...be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."

iii. The family is the school which trains and grows the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual climate of the next generation

iv. **Eph. 6:1-4** - "...bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." NKJV

v. Otis Gatewood in his book [You Can Do Personal Work](#), tells a story of a preacher who held a meeting in a country school. He thought the meeting was a failure because only one little freckle faced girl obeyed the gospel. That girl grew up, married, and had five sons. All of her sons become gospel preachers, they were the Dunn Brothers.

**III. Responsibilities of marriage.**

**A. Provide for each others needs**

1. Helps - **Genesis 2:18** - "I will make him a helper comparable to him." NKJV

2. Provides us physical needs - **1 Tim. 5:8** - "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. NKJV

3. Satisfy sexual needs - **1 Cor. 7:3-5** - "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." NKJV

4. Husbands must:

i. Love wives the same way Christ loves the church - **Eph. 5:25**

ii. Treat wives the way they themselves want to be treated - **Eph. 5:28-**

- a. Nourish - to nurture, to bring up to maturity as with a child
- b. Cherish - to warm, brood with tender care as birds cover their young with their feathers

5. Wives must:

i. Respect husbands - **Eph. 5:33**

a. Respect - to reverence, venerate, to treat with difference or reverential obedience, fear

ii. Love husbands and children - **Titus 2:4-5** - "admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed." NKJV

#### IV. Abhor Divorce and separation.

A. Marriage is a covenant or vow

1. **Mal. 2:14-16** - "the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." NKJV

2. **Deut. 23:21** - "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. NKJV

3. **Ecc. 5:5** - "Better not to vow than to vow and not pay." NKJV

i. Better not to marry than to marry and not fulfill your marital vows

4. **1 Cor. 7:10-11** - A wife is not to depart from her husband, and a husband is not to divorce his wife

5. If marriage is an example of Christ and the church, then how is divorce or separation showing the world the value of Christ and the church?

#### V. Choosing a Godly Spouse.

A. **Proverbs 19:14** - "a prudent wife is from the LORD." NKJV

B. Let God choose your spouse

1. **Gen.24:7, 40** - Gods angel went before Abrahams servant to show him which woman God had chosen

2. **Verse 3-4** - Abraham knew exactly what he was looking for in a wife for Isaac.

i. Where to look, what kind of people

3. **Verse 14:** - Servant prayed for Gods help

4. **Prov 31:10** - "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."

5. My prayer for a wife that was answered

**Conclusion: Marriage is an Honorable Institution, So Let Us Honor It!**