

The Sanctity Of Marriage

Marriage and Family **Imperiled!**

- “Hi! My name is Misty and I think I maybe got married last night. Could someone call me back and tell me if I could get an annulment? I’m at Circus Circus? Room – honey, what room is this – Oh yeah, Room 407. Thank you.” (Answering Machine at divorce firm in Reno, NEV.)
- “We **rent** wedding rings.” (Sign in a Hollywood, CA Jewelry Store)

The Sanctity of Marriage –**God Ordained** Marriage!

- Marriage **originated** in the mind of God, Genesis 2:18,21-24; Matthew 19:6.
- **God instituted** marriage, evidenced by Genesis 2:24: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.”
- Fact: If God ordained marriage, then God (through His word) **regulates** Marriage!

Marriage Involves **Four** Essentials:

- “**Two** Eligible people.”
- **Purpose or Intent** – a decision to be bound to another for life.
- **Civil** Sanction.
- **Divine** Sanction, Matthew 19:6; Hebrews 13:4.

Essential Number One: “Two Eligible People”

- **A Man and a Woman**, a Male and a female, Genesis 2:22.
 - Not a man and a man, nor a woman and a woman, Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27.
 - Not a man and a beast, Leviticus 20:15.
- **Three Categories** of “eligible people:”
 - Those never before married (cf. Adam and Eve).
 - Those married, but whose mates have died, Romans 7:2-3.
 - Innocent victims from previous marriages, who put their fornicating spouses away for fornication, Matthew 19:9.

Essential Number Two: **Purpose or intent**, a decision to be bound for life.

- The leaving and cleaving of Genesis 2:24 signify purpose or intent.
- Both leaving and cleaving constitute **acts of the will**; reflect a definite decision.
- The purpose and intent are reflected in the **vows** that are made – by both parties, before others, and witnessed by God – vows which constitute a covenant. cf. Malachi 2:14,16.

Essential Number Three: **Civil** Sanction

- Christians are subject to the law of the land, Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1.
- We **obey** the law of the land unless it violates the law of God. Acts 5:29.
- **“God’s word** instituting marriage antedates all human legislation and, of course, takes precedence over it,” Clinton Hamilton, Vanguard Magazine, Vol. 1, number 2.

Essential Number Four – **Divine** Sanction

- **Matthew 19:6**: “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”
- **Hebrews 13:4**: “Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.
 - “God will judge” violations of the man-woman relationship.
 - Since God judges such matters, it is evident that God has a marriage law! Romans 4:15; 5:13.

The Sanctity of Marriage:

- Reflected in its **Social** Purpose.
 - Lawful **companionship** of a man and a woman, Genesis 2:18.
 - It was ordained for man’s happiness. Consider Adam: He had a good job, a perfect relationship with God, a good home, beautiful surroundings, etc., but something was missing!
 - **God provided** the missing part.

The Sanctity of Marriage:

- Reflected in its **Biological** Purpose.
 - For every natural desire which God placed in man, God provided lawful avenues for its fulfillment. I Corinthians 7:2-5.
 - Desire for Co-habitation not to be fulfilled thru:
 - Homosexuality, Romans 1:26-27.
 - Bestiality, Exodus 22:19.
 - Polygamy.
 - Fornication, I Corinthians 6:18.
 - Entering into Unscriptural Marriages, Mark 6:17-18

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- Reflected in its **Procreative** Purpose – the preservation of the human species.
- **Genesis 1:27-28**: “So God created man in His Own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”
- **I Timothy 5:14**: “I will therefore that the younger women **marry**, **bear children**, guide the house...”

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- Reflected in its **Spiritual** Symbolism.
- Clearly set forth in **Ephesians 5:22-33** wherein the apostle stressed the fact that the husband-wife relationship symbolizes the Christ-church relationship.
- Note especially **Ephesians 5:31-32**: “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Conclusion:

- In recent years there have been **relentless attacks** against marriage and family – resulting in the increase of divorce, crime, suicide, drug use and abuse, alcoholism, poverty, etc.
- The breakdown of the home has always contributed to the breakdown of nations, Jeremiah 5:7-9.
- A happy “Christian home” is the happiest relationship this side of heaven!
- **Have you made preparation for heaven??**