

What God Has Joined Together

Genesis 2:15-24

1

What God Has Joined Together

- A simple, well-defined topic
- A lot of emotionalism wrapped up in it though
- "What if" is a common response
- "Just the facts, ma'am"

2

The Origin Of Marriage

- Established by God
 - Genesis 2:24 – "...cleave unto his wife"
- Purpose
 - Genesis 2:18 – "...not good that the man should be alone"
 - "meet" (ASV), "fit" (ESV), "comparable" (NKJV), "suitable" (NAS)

3

The Origin Of Marriage

- Number
 - The establishment verses use singular forms of speech
 - Not until 7th generation that we see more than one
 - Genesis 4:19 – "...Lamech took unto him two wives"
 - Not until Genesis 16 that we see it again

4

The Origin Of Marriage

- Number
 - Not a universal practice
 - OT shows more monogamous marriages than polygamous
 - NT has no implication of a plurality of wives
 - 90 occurrences of "wife" and "wives"
 - Matthew 18:25 – "...his wife..."
 - Matthew 22:24-28 – "...the woman..."

5

The Origin Of Marriage

- Number
 - The principle of Matthew 19 is valid
 - Matthew 19:8 – "*He saith unto them, Moses for your hardness of heart suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it hath not been so.*"

6

The Origin Of Marriage

■ Relationship

- Love (used in 26 of the NT books)
 - Ephesians 5:25-33 – *"love your wives"*
 - Colossians 3:19 – *"love your wives"*
 - Titus 2:4 – *"love their husbands"*
- Respect/Subjection
 - Ephesians 5:21 – *"submitting yourselves to one another"*
 - I Peter 3:7 – *"according to knowledge"*
 - Titus 2:5 – *"being in subjection"*
 - I Peter 3:8-9 – *"loving as brethren"*

7

The Origin Of Marriage

■ Duration

- I Corinthians 7:27 – *"Seek not to be loosed"*
- I Corinthians 7:39 – *"so long time as her husband liveth"*

■ **"One man plus one woman, for life"**

- A statement clearly backed by Scripture

8

Divorce

■ Spoken of in the Bible

- Deuteronomy 24:1 – *"some unseemly thing"*
- Hebrew - עֲרֵוּת - used 53 other times in the OT
 - "Nakedness and exposure of sexual organs (usually female)"
 - By implication – Wife is guilty of fornication or adultery

9

Divorce

■ Spoken of in the Bible

- Matthew 19:3-8 – *"for every cause?"*
 - Jesus took them back to Genesis 2
 - They wanted to be at Deuteronomy 24
 - *"Hardness of heart" ... "From the beginning it hath not been so"*

10

Divorce

■ Jesus' ruling on divorce

- 12 times Jesus says, *"...but I say unto you"*
- Matthew 5:31-32 – *"but I say unto you ... putteth away his wife"*
- Matthew 19:3-9 – *"I say unto you ... put away his wife"*
- Mark 10:2-12 – *"God hath joined"*
- Luke 16:18 – *"putteth away his wife"*

11

Divorce

■ God's stated attitude on divorce

- Malachi 2:14-16 – *"I hate putting away"*

12

Remarriage

- Summary of Scriptures

	Husband		Wife		Remarry?	
	Commits Adultery		Commits Adultery		Husband	Wife
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
Matthew 5:31-32		X		X	No	No
Matthew 5:31-32		X	X		Yes	No
Matthew 19:3-12		X		X	No	No
Matthew 19:3-12		X	X		Yes	No
Mark 10:2-12		X		X	No	No
Luke 16:18		X		X	No	No

Remarriage

- Note that Mark 10:2-12 shows that the wife could also be the one doing the putting away
 - Not that it was justified by Scripture but that it was permitted by civil law

Remarriage

- Two other instances of remarriage
 - I Corinthians 7:39 – *"if the husband be dead"*
 - I Corinthians 7:10-11 – *"remain unmarried"*

What God Has Joined Together

- Guilty party may NEVER remarry
- Innocent party may remarry under CERTAIN circumstances
- "One man plus one woman, for life"