

God's Plan For Marriage

When we understand that marriage is central to God's plan for the ages and to our fulfillment in the Kingdom of God, it becomes easy to see why the worldly forces of this age so vigorously attack and seek to destroy the God ordained calling and relationship of a man and a woman in marriage.

Slowly but steadily the foundation of our society is being eroded. The chaos and confusion of an anti-family society is very obvious through rising crime, abortion, homosexuality, rape, abuse, drugs, alcohol, adultery, divorce (one every 27 seconds) and the general loss of moral fiber and family values.

The root of this moral decay which affects our personal lives, marriages, and families is selfishness (pleasing self rather than God). The only way we can be set free from self is through Jesus Christ (death to self). When we start to make obedience to God and His Word a priority in our lives and purpose to make our personal lives and marriages glorify Him, then and only then will we see our society turn away from its current self destructive course and turn to God.

How can we make our marriages and families pleasing to God? First, we must understand what marriage is through God's eyes. The marriage relationship is the foundation of the church and society.

Marriage was established by God in creation. Genesis 2:18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for Him." Genesis 1:28 ...Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it;

Marriage is a picture of the relationship Christ has with His church. Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

Marriage is a covenant relationship. Malachi 2:14 ...The Lord was witness to the covenant between you and the wife of your youth, .. she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

Marriage is to be a permanent relationship. Mark 10:9 What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.

Marriage is the uniting of two people to become one. Genesis 2:24 For this cause a man shall LEAVE his father and his mother, and shall CLEAVE to his wife, and they shall become ONE FLESH.

God has requirements for husbands and wives in the marriage relationship. I Peter 3:1 You wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any are disobedient to the Word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives. I Peter 3:7 You husbands ...live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Obedience and perseverance in yielding to God and His Word as it applies to our personal lives, marriages and families, will stem the growing tide of marital and family distress and failure in our society today. It truly requires death to self before God can create a godly marriage and family; one that will remain steadfast through the storms of life and glorify Him.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.