THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

I. God created marriage to provide companionship.
   A. In the Garden, God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone.
      1. God allowed him to name the animals but there was not a suitable companion found for Adam.
      2. Thus, God created woman for man, Eve for Adam.
   B. You and I are social beings.
      1. Loneliness is a facet of life no one likes.
      2. At some point we all wonder if there is someone out there for me.
      3. We do this because, as the poet once said: No man is an island.
   C. God made woman from man, especially for man.
      1. God created her exactly suited for man.
      2. She was made from him to show that she was part of him.
   D. Men, in most cases, need to have a woman to love in order to feel complete and that need is felt by a woman in needing a man to love.
      1. There are exceptions to this.
      2. Paul talks about those who could remain like him, unmarried, in 1 Corinthians.
   E. God said that it was not good for man to be alone.
   F. As Thomas B. Warren stated: She is that person who enables man to best express himself as a man, to know himself, and to develop himself.
   G. We need to remember we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
      1. God is a social being in that He has had eternal fellowship with the members of the Godhead.
      2. In that sense, this is a quality from God.

II. God created marriage to fulfill sexual desires.
   A. The sexual desires mankind has are God-given desires.
   B. Paul deals with the meeting of these needs in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5.
   C. God allowed for these desires to be met in the institution of marriage and in it only.
      1. Meeting these needs outside of marriage is fornication.
      2. Fornication is sin (1 Corinthians 6:18).
   D. We are made in the image of God and our bodies are the residing place of what that image is, our eternal souls.
      1. For us to use our bodies in sin is to defile that temple.
      2. God explicitly condemns the use of the body in that manner (1 Corinthians 6:13).
   E. We do need to be careful that we don’t make the fulfilling of these desires something that is considered dirty.
      1. I know of one couple that has had problems because the wife was taught as a child that sex was something dirty.
      2. The Bible tells us the marriage bed is undefiled (Hebrews 13:4).
      3. It is something wonderful that is to be shared by a man and a woman who are united in marriage.
F. The husband and wife are to render due benevolence to one another and to see that each other’s sexual needs are met (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

III. **God created marriage to provide a place for the conception of children.**
A. It is through this means that the human race is to be continued.
B. The plan is for marriage to take place and then the conceiving of children (Genesis 2:24; 1 Timothy 5:14).
   1. As a fellow preacher said of Genesis 2:24; leave, cleave and conceive.
   2. This is the arrangement created by God.
C. Wayne Jackson wrote: The Lord never intended that human beings “breed” like beasts.
D. God knew what He was doing when He created marriage and commanded children to be born in wedlock and not out of it.
   1. Children need both parents.
   2. Sons learn to be men from their fathers and how they are to treat the one they will marry.
   3. Daughters learn how to be a lady from their mothers and learn how they should be treated by the one they will marry.
E. Research has clearly shown that a two-parent household is the best situation for children to grow up and experience a normal adult state.

IV. **God created marriage to help bring about man’s redemption.**
A. God knew before the world began man would sin (1 Peter 1:20).
B. In light of this, we believe that everything God has done for man had this ultimate end in mind.
C. What was the first thing God did for man?
   1. It was the creation of marriage.
   2. Since God did everything with man’s redemption in mind, we must believe the marriage relationship is connected.
D. One professor, a Mark McVann, wrote that the family arrangement is the foundation of society itself.
E. It is in marriage that children learn important principles for life.
   1. Responsibility, justice and respect for authority are learned.
   2. When these have not been learned by children, it makes it extremely difficult for those type people to accept the authority of Jesus.
F. Not only that, but marriage is to show us a model for our relationship to Christ.
   1. Ephesians 5:22-25.
   2. A husband is to love his wife just as Christ loves the church.
   3. A wife is to submit to her husband just as the church submits to the authority of Christ.
G. Marriage also is used as an illustration for how God loves His people.
   1. Hosea 1-3 carries this idea.
   2. Ezekiel 16 shows this to be the case as well.

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