

COMMITMENT TO MARRIAGE (Ephesians 5:22-29)

I. We are committing to God's plan.

- A. All three members of the Godhead were and are involved in the establishment and maintaining of marriage.
 - 1. God ordained marriage in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18-25).
 - 2. The plan God designed for man in the beginning of time, is the same plan to which Jesus brought attention when He spoke about marriage (Matthew 19:3-6).
 - 3. The plan God designed in the Garden, which Jesus presented to His audience, is the same plan that the Holy Spirit inspired men to write down for us in the Bible.
- B. A look at the plan sees that it involves two people, one male and one female.
 - 1. God joined Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden.
 - 2. This was and is His plan for the two parties involved in marriage.
 - 3. As you read what Jesus said, He said that a man would leave his parents and cleave to his wife, thus a male and a female.
 - 4. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit inspired men to write.
 - a. Paul was inspired to write about husband and wife (Ephesians 5:22ff).
 - b. Peter was inspired to write about husband and wife (1 Peter 3:1-7).
 - 5. God never intended for people of the same sex to marry one another.
 - a. This type of relationship is considered vile (Romans 1:26-27).
 - b. Those involved in this sinful lifestyle will not enter the kingdom of heaven if they continue without repenting (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).
 - 6. It does not matter what the laws of our nation say.
 - 7. Just because something may be legal does not make it moral or right.
- C. This plan of God tells us that marriage is for life.
 - 1. Romans 7:1-3.
 - 2. God's plan is that the man and woman who unite themselves together in marriage are to stay together till death parts them.
 - 3. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).
 - 4. It is destructive to both individuals and to those who are close to them.
 - 5. God never intended for divorce to be common place.
 - 6. This indicates to us that when marriage is being contemplated, much thought needs to be given by both parties as to whether or

- not they can make such a deep commitment.
7. This is exactly as God would have it.
- D. In reality, Ephesians 5:23-29 lays all this out for us.
1. This section compares the relationship of Christ and the church to that of a husband and wife.
 - a. This shows the approval of the Godhead for marriage.
 - b. Both a husband and a wife are mentioned.
 - (1) If same-sex marriage were biblical, the illustration the Holy Spirit chose would not be fitting.
 - (2) The Lord is the husband and the church is the bride.
 - (3) This only fits if marriage is only for those couples made up of man and woman.
 - c. Nowhere in the passage is divorce even alluded to, let alone endorsed.
 - (1) A husband is to love his wife enough to die for her.
 - (2) A husband is to love his wife as he loves himself.
 - (3) No one would divorce himself.
- E. God does allow for divorce and remarriage in the instance of adultery occurring, but it isn't what God wants.
1. He wants us love our spouses enough to be faithful to them.
 2. He does understand that the entrance of adultery into the picture destroys trust and happiness to the point that many can't recover, thus the allowance in that case.
- F. God's plan is enjoined by all three members of the Godhead and involves two people of the opposite sex and is intended to last for life.

II. **We are committing to our partner.**

- A. Partner is defined as: "a person who shares or is associated with another in some action or endeavor."
- B. Your spouse is your partner.
 1. I know that the homosexual community has taken over this word.
 2. They apply it to the same-sex individual with whom they are in a sinful relationship.
- C. Just because someone has taken a word and put a sinful practice to its definition does not mean the word should not be used as it is intended.
- D. When you and I said our marriage vows, or do say our marriage vows, there is a commitment to that one person above all others till death parts us, being made.
- E. One writer said that in the case of marriage, "Commitment is a choice to give up choices."
 1. When you are single, you can choose anyone to date that you want to choose who will choose to date you.
 2. Live it up.
 3. Date all you want.

4. However, when a person of the opposite sex comes along who so moves you to want to make a commitment to him or her and you do, you are choosing to give up all other choices.
- F. We are telling that individual that no matter what may come our way, we are pledging ourselves to them for life and are entrusting ourselves to their safekeeping.
- G. As Adam said in the Garden, we are leaving and cleaving to our spouse and becoming one flesh.
1. The word translated “cleave” carries the idea of joining something never to be unjoined.
 2. To take the two apart would take a ripping apart and the destruction of both is the idea.
 3. The reason such is the case is that the two have become one.
- H. If we aren't ready to make that type commitment, we are not ready to marry.
1. If we have already made the commitment, if we are going to be right with God, we have to mature and stick to the commitment we've made.
 2. Marriage is not something to be entered into lightly and left whenever we want.
- I. We are committing everything that makes us, us to the one to whom we marry.
1. We are giving our all to that person.
 2. In turn, that person is giving their all to us.
 3. Thus, the two become one.
- J. Our partner is before all others.
1. This means any other person or human relationship.
 2. Our partner comes before our parents.
 3. Our partner is to come before our children.
 4. Our partner is definitely to come before us.
- K. So we see that we are fully committing to our partner for life.

III. We are committing to God's purpose for marriage.

- A. God's purpose for marriage is not to find someone to do the things in life we don't like to do.
- B. God's purpose for marriage is not to find someone who will take care of our sexual needs.
- C. God's purpose for marriage is not to find someone who will provide for us.
- D. God's purpose for marriage seems to be two-fold.
 1. Find someone who will help us get to heaven.
 - a. The ultimate aim in life is to be prepared for the next life.
 - b. We all have a desire to go to heaven and we need help to get there.
 - (1) Of course we need the help of the Lord.

- (2) If we marry, we need the help of that one we marry to get to heaven.
 - c. We all know the way there is hard.
 - d. Marrying someone can make it easier, or, it can make it much more difficult.
 - e. We need someone, if we marry, that will help us not hinder us.
 - f. Remember Ephesians 5:23ff?
 - (1) When the husband loves his wife sacrificially and the wife reverences her husband.
 - (2) Those aren't hard to do when both parties are fulfilling their roles.
- 2. The second is to help one another enjoy life while here on earth.
 - a. Robert Taylor, Jr., wrote a book entitled "Vestibules of Heaven."
 - b. It is a book about marriage.
 - c. A good marriage is a sneak peek into heaven.
 - d. Life is enjoyable and easy to live when two married people truly love another and are fully committed to one another.
 - e. A bad marriage is a sneak peek into hell.
 - f. Nothing is enjoyable, there is always fighting and fussing and there is no commitment to the other.
 - g. Jesus came to give us an abundant life (John 10:10).
 - h. If we will pattern our marriages after His relationship to the church, as we read about in Ephesians 5, we will have that abundant life.