

IS YOUR MARRIAGE GOD DESIGNED?

GENESIS 2:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. After seeing that man was alone, God created someone to be his companion. (Gen. 2.18-25)
2. Genesis 2.24 contain words that were spoken by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 2.24; Matt. 19.4,5; Eph. 5.31)
3. From these words, we learn the kind of marriage God designed.

I. LOYALTY SHIFT

- A. **GENESIS 2.24:** *“A man shall leave his father and mother”*
1. Leave (ya-azab): Lit. to abandon, leave behind, forsake. (Heb. 10.25; 13.5; Matt. 27.46)
 2. Families should not take sides.
- B. Adam and Eve strengthened the bond between them.
1. They were together in creation. (Gen. 1.26,27)
 2. They were together in transgression. (Gen. 3.1-6)

II. LIFETIME COMMITMENT

- A. **GENESIS 2.24:** *“be joined to his wife.”*
1. Joined (proskolla): Literally, to be glued together.
 2. To break up a marriage is to tear families apart.
- B. God designed marriage to be a lifetime commitment.
1. **ROMANS 7.1,2:** *“For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives.”*
 2. Are you committed to making your marriage last?

III. LEARNING PROCESS

- A. **GENESIS 2.24:** *“They shall become one flesh”*
1. The longer husbands and wives are married, the more they become like each other.
 2. How well do you understand your spouse? (1 Pet. 3.7)
- B. Learning to be like minded.
1. **PHILIPPIANS 2.1-4:** God expected us to be unified.
 2. **PHILIPPIANS 2.5:** *“Have this mind in you...”*

CONCLUSION: A good marriage begins with you!

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

January 29, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

LET GOD BE THE JUDGE

How do you react to those who mistreat you? It is natural to want to do unto others what they have done to us. If someone hurts you, you want to hurt them back. You might even use the Bible to justify your reaction. After all, does not the Bible say, *“eye for eye, tooth for tooth”* (Ex. 21.24)?

The Bible never justifies personal retaliation or vigilantism. The scripture that teaches *“an eye for an eye”* is in a context of civil authority, not personal revenge. Jesus corrected the Pharisees who misapplied this passage when He said, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also”* (Matt. 5.38,39).

When someone hurts us, are we just supposed to let them get away with it? Is that justice? Is that fair? Let’s let God determine what is just and fair. We are told that *“it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you”* (1 Thess. 1.6). In other words, let God handle it (cf. Rom. 12.19,20).

What should we do? We should help those who hurt us to be saved. God will punish the wicked in due time. In the meantime, God wants all to be saved. This should be our desire as well...even for those who hurt us (Ezek. 33.11; Matt. 5.43-48).

HOW TO GROW AS THE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Popular today is the process of encouraging growth by appealing to the world. Food, Fun, Fellowship.
2. To grow as the church, you need to understand the church.
 - a) The church is a collection of individuals. (1 Cor. 12.20,27)
 - b) To grow as the church, grow individually. (1 Pet. 2.2)
3. 1 Corinthians 3 offers suggestions on how to grow.

I. BRETHERN WORKING TOGETHER

- A. Paul and Apollos worked together.
 1. They worked together to serve the brethren. (1 Cor. 3.5)
 2. Paul planted the word of God. (1 Cor. 3.6; Acts 18.18)
 3. Apollos watered by teaching. (1 Cor. 3.8; Acts 18.27)
- B. This congregation grows when we work together.
 1. Growth does not happen accidentally. We need to work.
 2. **EPHESIANS 4.16:** *“effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body”*

II. GOD WORKING THROUGH US

- A. Paul and Apollos worked, but they did not take credit for the growth of the church. (1 Cor. 3.6,7)
 1. In context, this was a congregation that was deeply divided. (1 Cor. 1.13)
 2. We are expected to work, but God causes our work to be effective. (Phil. 2.13).
- B. How does God involve Himself in the work of the church?
 1. Through our abilities. (1 Cor. 3.5; Rom. 12.3; 2 Cor. 3.5)
 2. Through answered prayers. (Col. 4.3,4; Acts 4.29)

III. BUILDING ON THE PROPER FOUNDATION

- A. The identity of the foundation.
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 3.10,11:** The foundation of Jesus.
 2. **MATTHEW 16.18:** *“On this rock, I will build my church”*
- B. The exclusivity of the foundation.
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 3.11:** There is no other foundation.
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 4.5:** *“We do not preach ourselves”*
- C. The method of building on the foundation. (1 Cor. 3.10-15)

CONCLUSION: To grow, we must all do our part.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST SIN

Our culture is in the midst of redefining marriage. Civil rights advocates have pushed to extend the blessing of marriage to those who desire a romantic and sexual relationship with those of the same gender. The Bible teaches us to love everyone unconditionally, and indeed we must. God loved mankind and still does even though we have always been a people characterized as *“without strength,” “ungodly,” “sinners,”* and *“enemies”* (Rom. 5.6-10). In the same way, we are to love our fellow man and treat him with respect in spite of the lifestyle they have chosen or the specific sin they have chosen to commit.

However, it is our love for their souls that compel us to gently encourage others to abandon their sinful lifestyle and choose to live a life of holiness and purity. It is not a matter of civil rights, but a matter of helping others understand that the road they are traveling *“is the way that leads to destruction”* (Matt. 7.13). God is patient with us *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pet. 3.9). As people who serve God, Christians also want others to turn away from sins (repentance) so that they do not perish. Thus we speak out against same-sex relationships and show the better path *“that leads to life”* through Jesus (Matt. 7.14; John 14.6).

Indeed, we are to treat everyone with love and respect, and help them to choose life. At the same time, we cannot be expected to just accept that which God has clearly condemned. It does not matter if it is drunkenness, homosexuality, covetousness, or anything else that is in violation of God’s divine law, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6.23). I realize that we live in a culture that is more tolerant and accepting of alternative lifestyles, but God is less tolerant and less accepting than our culture. God’s people are still expected to show others what God says about sin.

The world expects Christians to be silent and go along to get along. We love others and want them to be saved. We love God and want His truth to be known. Thus it makes being silent impossible. Jeremiah knew that speaking the truth would get him into trouble. He decided he did not want to speak the truth anymore. Try as he did, he realized that he could not. *“I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.”* (Jer. 20.9).

