

Marriage In Scripture



I. The institution of marriage is of divine origin.

Genesis 2:18-25 – Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought {them} to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

A. It is "honorable in all."

- 1) Hebrews 13:4 – Marriage {is to be held} in honor among all, and the {marriage} bed {is to be} undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- 2) 1 Corinthians 7:36b, 28a – if she is past her youth, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry.; But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned.

- B. Marriage is for life – a permanent union, a bond not to be broken.
- 1) Matthew 19:3-6 – {Some} Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful {for a man} to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created {them} from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
 - 2) Mark 10:8 – AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.
 - 3) Romans 7:2 – For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.
 - 4) 1 Corinthians 7:10, 11, 39 – But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

C. Marriage is precious in the sight of God. He demands the faithfulness of both marriage partners.

- 1) Malachi 2:14, 15 – "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. "But not one has done {so} who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did {that} one {do} while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

II. Because He recognizes what may be the end result of an unequally yoked marriage (see 1 Kings 11:1-6), God has placed specific restrictions on Christians concerning marriage. A believer may only marry "in the Lord" (that is, to one of the same faith: Genesis 24:37 – "My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;).

- A. 1 Corinthians 7:39 – A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.
 - B. 2 Corinthians 6:14 – Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- III. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."
 "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her ... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." "... a prudent wife is from the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22 – He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 – House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Proverbs 31:10-12 – An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

- A. Her character qualities.
 - 1) Proverbs chapter 3:13-18 – How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast.
 - 2) 1 Timothy 2:9-11 – Likewise, {I want} women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.
 - 3) 1 Timothy 5:13, 14 – At the same time they also learn {to be} idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper {to mention.} Therefore, I want younger {widows} to get married, bear children, keep house, {and} give the enemy no occasion for reproach;

4) 1 Peter 3:4 – Your adornment must not be {merely} external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but {let it be} the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

B. Her love, honor, and submission toward her husband.

1) Genesis 3:16 – To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

2) Esther 1:20 – "When the king's edict which he will make is heard throughout all his kingdom, great as it is, then all women will give honor to their husbands, great and small."

3) 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8, 9 – But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.

4) Ephesians 5:22-24, 33 – Wives, {be subject} to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself {being} the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives {ought to be} to their husbands in everything. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must {see to it} that she respects her husband.

5) Colossians 3:18 – Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

6) 1 Timothy 2:11, 12 – A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

7) Titus 2:3-5 – Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {to be} sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

8) 1 Peter 3:1, 2, 5, 6 – In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any {of them} are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their

wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

C. Companion, helpmeet to her husband.

- 1) Genesis 2:18; 3:12 – Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." The man said, "The woman whom You gave {to be} with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."
- 2) Proverbs 31:10-12 – An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.
- 3) Malachi 2:14, 15 – "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. "But not one has done {so} who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did {that} one {do} while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

IV. As head of the wife, the husband is to represent Christ (Head of the church).

1 Corinthians 11:3 – But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Ephesians 5:23 – For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself {being} the Savior of the body.

A. Protector and provider.

- 1) Ephesians 5:23, 29 – For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself {being} the Savior of the body. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church...
- 2) 1 Timothy 5:8 – But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

3) 2 Corinthians 12:14 – Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for {their} parents, but parents for {their} children.

B. Ruler in government of the home.

1) Esther 1:22 – So he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province according to its script and to every people according to their language, that every man should be the master in his own house and the one who speaks in the language of his own people.

2) 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12 – {He must be} one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)... Deacons must be husbands of {only} one wife, {and} good managers of {their} children and their own households.

3) Titus 1:6 – ... {namely,} if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

C. Spiritual leader.

1) In instruction from scripture.

a) Deuteronomy 4:9, 10; 6:6, 7; 11:19 – "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. "{Remember} the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' | "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. | "You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.

b) 1 Corinthians 14:34, 35 – The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn

anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.

2) In spiritual training of the children.

a) Proverbs 22:6 – Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

b) Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

D. Lover of the wife, "as Christ also loved the church."

1) 1 Samuel 1:5, 7, 8 – ...but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat.

2) Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33 – Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must {see to it} that she respects her husband.

3) Colossians 3:19 – Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

4) 1 Peter 3:7 – You husbands in the same way, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

V. Does not Paul, in his first epistle to the Corinthians, seem to present a negative attitude toward marriage?

A. It is true that Paul attempted to discourage the Christians of his day from marrying (ch. 7:7-9, 27, 32, 33, 38); but he says, "this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you" (v. 35).

B. Why did he consider it "profitable" to remain single?

1) For "the present distress."

1 Corinthians 7:26 – I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

2) To give undivided devotion to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 – But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and {his interests} are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and {to secure} undistracted devotion to the Lord.

3) Because "the time is short."

1 Corinthians 7:29, 31 – But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.

C. Peter married (Matthew 8:14 – When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.; Mark 1:30 – Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they *spoke to Jesus about her.; Luke 4:38 – Then He got up and {left} the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her.; 1 Corinthians 9:5 – Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?), as did many of the other apostles. Celibacy was never required of the disciples of Jesus.

1) 1 Timothy 3:2, 4, 5, 12 – An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach... {He must be} one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)... Deacons must be husbands of {only}

one wife, {and} good managers of {their} children and their own households.

- 2) 1 Timothy 4:1-3a – But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, {men} who forbid marriage...
- 3) Titus 1:6 – ... {namely,} if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

VI. God's intention in the marriage union was "that He might obtain a godly seed."

Malachi 2:15 – "But not one has done {so} who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did {that} one {do} while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

A. God said to "be fruitful and multiply."

Genesis 1:26-28 – Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

B. Children are a blessing from the Lord.

Psalms 127:3 – Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Psalms 128:3 – Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, Your children like olive plants around your table.

VII. Marriage is typologically referred to in scripture as the relationship between Christ and His church.

A. Isaiah 54:5; 62:4, 5 – "For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken,"

Nor to your land will it any longer be said, "Desolate"; But you will be called, "My delight is in her," And your land, "Married"; For the LORD delights in you, And {to Him} your land will be married. For {as} a young man marries a virgin, {So} your sons will marry you; And {as} the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, {So} your God will rejoice over you.

- B. Jeremiah 3:14 – 'Return, O faithless sons,' declares the LORD; 'For I am a master to you, And I will take you one from a city and two from a family, And I will bring you to Zion.'
- C. Jeremiah 31:32 – ...not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.
- D. [Ephesians 5](#) <- Click link

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