

## **The Sanctity of Marriage**

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### **Introduction**

1. Marriage is the oldest institution in the world, began by God when He presented Eve to Adam (Gen. 2:18-24).
2. Is something that was good 6,000 years ago still good for us today?

### **I. What God Has Said About Marriage**

- A. God the Father
  1. "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18).
  2. "A man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife" (Gen. 2:24).
- B. God the Son, Jesus Christ
  1. Noted that the Creator made the sexes for each other (Matt. 19:4)
  2. Emphasized that husband and wife are one flesh (Matt 19:6a)
  3. Concluded that since God joined, man must not separate (Matt. 19:6)
- C. God the Holy Spirit
  1. Husbands
    - (a) Husbands have a specific role to play—to be head (leader) of the wife (Eph. 5:23).
    - (b) Husbands have a specific duty to fulfill—to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25). This entails understanding her and God's commands to the husband (1 Pet. 3:7).
  2. Wives
    - (a) Wives have a specific role to play—to let their husbands be the leader of the marriage and the home (Eph. 5:22)
    - (b) Wives have a specific duty to fulfill—to respect their husbands (Eph. 5:33).
  3. Mutual responsibilities
    - (a) Submit to one another in the fear of God (Eph. 5:21).
    - (b) Be available to each other (1 Cor. 7:3-5)

### **II. The Human Response to Marriage**

- A. What humans have done in history
  1. Marriage in history
  2. Marriage in foreign cultures
    - (a) Asian
    - (b) Middle Eastern
- B. What humans are now doing with marriage
  1. Divorce
  2. Adultery
  3. Same-sex marriage
- C. What humans are now saying about marriage
  1. Secular perspectives
    - (a) Marriage is not permanent
    - (b) Marriage is not relevant for today: Feminism, Humanism and Post-modernism
  2. Spiritual perspectives
    - (a) Scriptural counseling
    - (b) Determination to apply principles

### **Conclusion**

1. Marriage is God's institution and will last as long as humans are on the earth.
2. Marriage can be a great blessing if we follow God's plan.
3. Married partners can help each other go to heaven as fellow-heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7).