



Wednesday Night Bible Study

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lesson for February 11, 2015 by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: In light of recent events, I thought we might spend some time discussing something extremely applicable for this current time in our society: biblical marriage. Our Almighty God and Creator established a pattern for the home about 6,000 years ago in the garden (**Genesis 1:26-2:24**). Many in our culture are seeking to tear down the institution of marriage. They wish to discount the view of nearly all religious people - especially Christians - that marriage is an institution between one man and one woman. Before we begin let me set forth three truths:

- 1) God LOVES us & He expects us to be just like Him (John 3:16, Matthew 5:45, 48).
- 2) God wants us to learn His ways (II Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 14:12).
- 3) God wants us to stand for what is right, regardless of the consequences (Joshua 24:15, Ephesians 4:15, 6:10-17).

Christians should remember Paul's advice: "*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*" (**II Timothy 2:24-26**). I hope that is the prevailing attitude, not one that is self-righteous, arrogant, or haughty. We should be unshockable and unshakable! Let's open our Bibles and study together....

Discussion:

I. The Institution of Biblical Marriage

- A. The creation of man (**Genesis 1:26-31, 2:1-17**)
- B. The isolation of man (**Genesis 2:18**)
- C. The observation of God (**Genesis 2:18**)
- D. The realization of man (**Genesis 2:19-20**)
- E. The creation of woman (**Genesis 2:21-22**)
- F. The presentation of woman (**Genesis 2:22-23**)
- G. The appreciation for woman (**Genesis 2:23**)
- H. The consummation of marriage (**Genesis 2:24**)

II. The Adversaries of Biblical Marriage

- A. Unholy thoughts (Job 31:1, Psalm 101:3, Matthew 5:27-30)
- B. Unrealistic expectations (Song of Solomon 8:6-7, Hebrews 13:4)
- C. Unmet priorities (I Corinthians 7, Ephesians 5:21-33)
- D. Unbridled lust (II Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51, I John 2:16)
- E. Unauthorized sex (Proverbs 5:15-21, 6:20-7:27, Song of Solomon 4:1-16)
- F. Unbiblical partners (Genesis 19, Exodus 20:14, 17, Leviticus 20:13)
- G. Unrecognized boundaries (I Corinthians 6:13-20, Ephesians 5:1-3, Colossians 3:5).
- H. Ungodly practices (Matthew 19:1-12, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4).

III. The Battle for Biblical Marriage

- A. Re-evaluate the facts (Proverbs 9:9, John 8:32)
- B. Re-invest your time (Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5)
- C. Re-examine the leadership (Proverbs 28:15, 29:2, Psalm 125:3)
- D. Repeat sound rationale (I Timothy 1:15, 4:9, I Peter 3:15)
- E. Remove stumbling blocks (Romans 14:13, I Corinthians 8:9)
- F. Remember the past (II Kings 10:31-32, Isaiah 36-37, Romans 13:1-7)
- G. Resist the world (Romans 12:1-2, I Peter 2:9, I John 4:4)
- H. Respect God (II Chronicles 7:14, Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Conclusion: The world has struggled in sin since the fall of man. Should we expect any change before Jesus comes again? In the meantime, before Jesus returns, God has left us His Holy Word. The Lord wants us to follow His pattern. He has given us the biblical pattern for marriage. Will you stand for it? Will you follow Him? Will you defend what is right?