



## *a study on God, marriage, and family*

### NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE: MARRIAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

#### **I. JESUS' HIGH VIEW OF MARRIAGE**

- Jesus' view of divorce
  - When questioned about divorce, Jesus said "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:6)
  - Thus, "Jesus considered marriage to be a sacred bond between a man and a woman, established by and entered into before God." (pg. 62)

#### **II. SUBMISSION & SENSITIVITY: PETER'S MESSAGE TO HUSBANDS & WIVES**

- Winning an unbelieving husband
  - Wives are to "submit to" their husbands so that they may be won "without a word by the conduct of their wives." (1 Peter 3:1)
  - The implication is that unbelieving husbands will respond positively to quiet action than loud badgering.
- Biblical beauty
  - Wives should cultivate inner, spiritual beauty
  - 1 Peter 3:4 "...let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."
  - Follow the example of Sarah and "holy women" of the OT (1 Peter 3:5)
- Husbands show honor to their wives
  - 1 Peter 3:7 "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."
  - John MacArthur, on the "weaker vessel" – "While she is fully equal in Christ and not inferior spiritually because she is a woman, she is physically weaker, and in need of protection, provision, and strength from her husband."

#### **III. ALL THINGS UNDER ONE HEAD: PAUL'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE**

- Condemnation of asceticism (1 Cor. 7:1-2)
  - The ascetic lifestyle included abstinence from, among other things, physical pleasure, in order to pursue a higher spirituality.

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 – Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.
- Better to marry than to sin
  - 1 Corinthians 7:3– “But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”
- Sex in marriage
  - 1 Corinthians 7:3– “The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.”
- Marriage as an honorable state
  - Paul commends the institution of marriage as good and created by God.
  - **1 Timothy 4:3-4** speaks of deceitful teachers “who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.”
- Roles of the husband and wife
  - WIVES
    - ❖ Submit to husband
      - Ephesians 5:22 – “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”
      - Submission is not the husband's to command, but the wife's to willingly exercise.
      - Submission should be that of the Church's submission to Christ.
      - Submission by wives should be viewed in the larger context of submission to God (“as to the Lord.”)
  - HUSBANDS
    - ❖ Love wives...
      - “...as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her.” (5:25)
      - “...as their own bodies.” (5:28a)
      - As you love yourself (“He who loves his wife loves himself” 5:28b)
  - Notice that Paul sets the bar extremely high for what is expected from both husbands and wives. Thus, this ideal for marriage will only be realized when husband and wife are individually submitting themselves to the Lord.
    - ❖ Ephesians 5:1-2 – “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
    - ❖ You cannot and will not have a (biblically) successful marriage if you do not first have a close and obedient relationship with the Lord.

## **IV.       INSIGHTS FROM NEW TESTAMENT MARRIAGES**