

Marriage

Definition:

Marriage is a **good** institution that was designed by **God** to be the union between a **man and a woman** in covenant *into one flesh* with the **man as the head** in that union and the **woman as his fitting helper**

God is the author of marriage

When God was creating all things, he looked on his creation and said it was good. But He looked at Adam, the first man, and said that it is *not* good for man to be alone¹. To this end, God created the first woman, Eve and said that she was a *helper fit for him*. God also has declared that a wife is good for the husband². Therefore God is the author of marriage. Everything that happens in a marriage institution has to be done in accordance to the original design and blue print.

Between man and woman

According to God's design marriage must be between *one man* (male) with *one woman* (female)³. This was the way God made it and it was good. No one has a right to change or adjust, in any way, the parties that constitute the marriage institution. To do so is to call God, the designer of marriage, a liar. Further, a Christian man is commanded to marry a Christian and vice versa⁴.

One flesh

God joins a man and a woman, in the institution of marriage, into one flesh⁵. It is however important to mention that a marriage has a specific time when it is said to commence. The parties in the marriage declare to witnesses that they have decided to begin living as husband and wife. Any man living with a woman in a similar manner as does a husband and wife against the above mentioned declaration is sinful before God. To do so is to

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1. Genesis 2:18
 2. Proverbs 18:22
 3. Genesis 2:24
 4. 2 Corinthians 6:14
 5. Ephesians 5:31; Mark 10:8

court lasciviousness and fornication⁶. The man is to *hold fast* unto his wife⁷. This doing of God cannot be separated by any human being. Actually, Jesus commands that whatever God puts together, *no one should separate*⁸. This means that no one has the power or ability to dissolve a marriage.

Distinct roles

In a marriage, the husband is the head of the wife⁹. He is to love, protect and provide for his wife as Christ loved the church¹⁰. His headship is a servant headship. This is his God given role. The wife is to submit to the servant headship of her *own* husband¹¹.

Divorce

The ultimate meaning of marriage is the representation of the covenant-keeping love between Christ and his bride, the church.¹² It suffices to say therefore that since Christ shall never leave his bride, then no one should divorce his wife either. Secondly, God hates divorce¹³. True Christians must put forth every effort and hate all that God hates.

6. Galatians 5:19

7. Matthew 19:5

8. Matthew 19:6

9. 1 Corinthians 11:3

10. Ephesians 5:25

11. Ephesians 5:22,24; Colossians 3:18

12. J. Piper in "This momentary marriage", Crossway Books 2009 eds.

13. Malachi 2:16