

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

I. God created marriage to provide companionship.

- A. In the Garden, God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone.
 - 1. God allowed him to name the animals but there was not a suitable companion found for Adam.
 - 2. Thus, God created woman for man, Eve for Adam.
- B. You and I are social beings.
 - 1. Loneliness is a facet of life no one likes.
 - 2. At some point we all wonder if there is someone out there for me.
 - 3. We do this because, as the poet once said: No man is an island.
- C. God made woman from man, especially for man.
 - 1. God created her exactly suited for man.
 - 2. She was made from him to show that she was part of him.
- D. Men, in most cases, need to have a woman to love in order to feel complete and that need is felt by a woman in needing a man to love.
 - 1. There are exceptions to this.
 - 2. Paul talks about those who could remain like him, unmarried, in 1 Corinthians.
- E. God said that it was not good for man to be alone.
- F. As Thomas B. Warren stated: She is that person who enables man to best express himself as a man, to know himself, and to develop himself.
- G. We need to remember we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
 - 1. God is a social being in that He has had eternal fellowship with the members of the Godhead.
 - 2. In that sense, this is a quality from God.

II. God created marriage to fulfill sexual desires.

- A. The sexual desires mankind has are God-given desires.
- B. Paul deals with the meeting of these needs in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5.
- C. God allowed for these desires to be met in the institution of marriage and in it only.
 - 1. Meeting these needs outside of marriage is fornication.
 - 2. Fornication is sin (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- D. We are made in the image of God and our bodies are the residing place of what that image is, our eternal souls.
 - 1. For us to use our bodies in sin is to defile that temple.
 - 2. God explicitly condemns the use of the body in that manner (1 Corinthians 6:13).
- E. We do need to be careful that we don't make the fulfilling of these desires something that is considered dirty.
 - 1. I know of one couple that has had problems because the wife was taught as a child that sex was something dirty.
 - 2. The Bible tells us the marriage bed is undefiled (Hebrews 13:4).
 - 3. It is something wonderful that is to be shared by a man and a woman who are united in marriage.

- F. The husband and wife are to render due benevolence to one another and to see that each other's sexual needs are met (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).
- III. God created marriage to provide a place for the conception of children.**
- A. It is through this means that the human race is to be continued.
 - B. The plan is for marriage to take place and then the conceiving of children (Genesis 2:24; 1 Timothy 5:14).
 - 1. As a fellow preacher said of Genesis 2:24; leave, cleave and conceive.
 - 2. This is the arrangement created by God.
 - C. Wayne Jackson wrote: The Lord never intended that human beings "breed" like beasts.
 - D. God knew what He was doing when He created marriage and commanded children be born in wedlock and not out of it.
 - 1. Children need both parents.
 - 2. Sons learn to be men from their fathers and how they are to treat the one they will marry.
 - 3. Daughters learn how to be a lady from their mothers and learn how they should be treated by the one they will marry.
 - E. Research has clearly shown that a two-parent household is the best situation for children to grow up and experience a normal adult state.
- IV. God created marriage to help bring about man's redemption.**
- A. God knew before the world began man would sin (1 Peter 1:20).
 - B. In light of this, we believe that everything God has done for man had this ultimate end in mind.
 - C. What was the first thing God did for man?
 - 1. It was the creation of marriage.
 - 2. Since God did everything with man's redemption in mind, we must believe the marriage relationship is connected.
 - D. One professor, a Mark McVann, wrote that the family arrangement is the foundation of society itself.
 - E. It is in marriage that children learn important principles for life.
 - 1. Responsibility, justice and respect for authority are learned.
 - 2. When these have not been learned by children, it makes it extremely difficult for those type people to accept the authority of Jesus.
 - F. Not only that, but marriage is to show us a model for our relationship to Christ.
 - 1. Ephesians 5:22-25.
 - 2. A husband is to love his wife just as Christ loves the church.
 - 3. A wife is to submit to her husband just as the church submits to the authority of Christ.
 - G. Marriage also is used as an illustration for how God loves His people.
 - 1. Hosea 1-3 carries this idea.
 - 2. Ezekiel 16 shows this to be the case as well.

From material by Wayne Jackson and Thomas Warren