

A Biblical View of Marriage

[18] Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

[19] Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

[20] Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. [21] Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (ESV)

Today we plan to lay a foundation for what the Bible says about marriage. We are going to ask and answer 3 questions that will help us gain a Biblical view of marriage.

Question #1 - What is a Biblical view of marriage?

I believe we can give 7 answers to best answer this question.

(Answer #1) - Marriage is ordained by God. **Genesis 2:18-24**

Ordained means to decree or order something. It means God created it. He designed it. God is the author of the idea of marriage. He is the one who writes the rules within marriage. He sets the boundaries. He tells us what is right and wrong concerning marriage.

(Answer #2) - Marriage is for companionship. **Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14**

What do we mean by companion? A companion is a person who stops you from being alone - a person to have by your side - a person to walk through life with. When God gave Eve to Adam,

Adam was no longer alone. He had a friend. He had someone to help him, someone to walk through life with, someone to love, someone to be close to, someone to share his heart with.

(Answer #3) - Marriage is between one man and one woman. **Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-10**

God has established the distinction of genders. God has established to unity of the marriage relationship between one male and one female. God does not want that relationship to be torn apart.

(Answer #4) - Marriage is leaving and cleaving. **Genesis 2:24**

Leave means to let loose, to be set free, to cut off. Hold fast, or cleave, means to pursue and be tightly held together. In a marriage, the couple is to leave the home and the authority of their parents to pursue a permanent bond to one another.

(Answer #5) - Marriage is covenantal commitment. **Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14; Mark 10:9**

A Biblical view of marriage is a promise for a lifelong commitment to God and our spouse. Marriage is to continue until death separates the couple.

(Answer #6) - Marriage is for having children. **Genesis 1:28; 9:7; Psalm 127:3**

The God given context for having children is within the marriage relationship. I really honestly believe the best environment for a child to grow up is in the context of a mom and a dad who are married to each other, committed to each other, they love the Lord, they love their children, and they see their children as a gift from God.

(Answer #7) - Marriage is a picture of the relationship between God and His people. **Ephesians 5:23-27**

In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel is referred to as the wife of God. In the New Testament, the Church is referred to as the bride of Christ. There's more to marriage than one and one woman living life together. There's a mysterious union that refers to Christ and the church.

Question #2 - What is not a Biblical view of marriage?

(Answer #1) - Marriage is not polygamy. **Genesis 2:24**

Polygamy means being married to more than one person at a time. A man having multiple wives is polygamy. The Bible does not say that a man shall hold fast to his wives, but his wife.

(Answer #2) - Marriage is not homosexuality. **Genesis 2:23-24; 19:4-7; Leviticus 18:22, 29; 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; Judges 19:22-23; Mark 10:7-8; Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 15-16; 1 Timothy 1:9-10**

In the mind of God, homosexuality is sinful. God does not approve of it. God does not view a homosexual marriage as a pure Biblical marriage. He views it as sin.

(Answer #3) - Marriage is not temporary trial and error. **Prov. 2:17**

Marriage is not to be entered into with a trial and error perspective. We should not think lightly of marriage. Christian's are going to view marriage as a special sacred relationship even if the world gets married and divorced on a whim.

(Answer #4) - Marriage is not living together. **John 4:16-18**

To move in with your boyfriend, girlfriend, or even fiancé, and to begin sleeping with one another is not marriage in God's eyes. Jesus told the woman at the well in John chapter 4 in verse 18 that the man she was with was not her husband. To live together and sleep together is not called marriage. That is called fornication.

Question #3 - What are the keys to a successful Biblical marriage?

I'll leave you with these 4 keys of application.

(Key #1) - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:16-17**

(Key #2) - The instruction of the Word of God. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

(Key #3) - The continual focus on the Son of God. **Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-2**

(Key #4) - The consistent prayer offered to God the Father. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

A BIBLICAL MARRIAGE IS ORDAINED BY GOD, FOR COMPANIONSHIP, BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN, LEAVING AND CLEAVING, FOR HAVING CHILDREN, AND A PICTURE OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE.

MARRIAGE IS NOT POLYGAMY, HOMOSEXUALITY, TRIAL AND ERROR, OR LIVING TOGETHER.

THE TRIUNE GOD AND HIS WORD ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN MARRIAGE.