

The Essence of Marriage

Genesis 2:24

What is marriage? What is the nature of marriage? Is it just legalized sex? Is it just the norm for having kids? We want to get to the essence of what marriage is all about.

1. What is Marriage?

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Marriage is an agreement. (A contract)

"...she is your companion and your wife by covenant." Malachi 2:14

2) Marriage is cohabitation. (Living together – sexual relationship)

"...and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

What is the purpose of sex in marriage? Catholicism and some Christian denominations say that sex is only for procreation. In Genesis 18:12, Sarah refers to sex a pleasurable. (Delight) So sex is about enjoyment, not just procreation.

3) Marriage is companionship.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife..." Genesis 2:24

"joined" means to "cling, to keep close".

"...though she is your companion..." Malachi 2:14

2. What is companionship?

There must be conversation. The problem is that in many marriages there is no conversation. There must be communication. At the core of communication is "self revelation"

Levels of communication:

Mouth to ear – generic conversation.

Mind to mind – ideas, and facts.

Heart to heart – sharing your thoughts and feelings.

There must be friendship. You have to genuinely like each other and being around each other.

Conclusion:

The essence of marriage is a covenant to be each other's companion for life. Are you married? I'm not asking if you have a license, or having sex. Are married? Is there conversation? Communication? Friendship?

To singles: If you want to get married, marry your best friend.

To married people: learn to become best friends.

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