

I. Intro

A. Text: **Rev. 19:1-9**

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! ²For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." ³Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" ⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" ⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" ⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." (Rev. 19:1-9)

B. Series Overview

1. **TRC Definition:** Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church...

C. The Wedding Banquet Focus

⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (Rev. 19:6-7)

1. All of Redemptive History is moving rapidly toward a glorious, breathtaking, beautiful wedding.

a. Photo

- b. This marriage feast will jubilantly celebrate the Bridegroom God-King (The Lamb) and His eternal union with His long awaited Bride.
- 2. In eternity past God planned, designed and created for Himself a family... full of sons and daughters.
 - a. Also planned an arranged marriage between His Son and a beautiful, mature Bride without spot or wrinkle.
 - b. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, God the Father promised to present a Ready Bride to a Worthy King.
 - i. He initiated the story and He alone vowed to make it come to pass.

II. Body

- A. Before God called mankind into marriage, God called mankind unto Himself.

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³ And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” (Gen. 2:18-23)

- 1. Myth: God instituted the marriage covenant as a reaction to loneliness.
 - a. Much like our assumption that God created man because of loneliness.
 - b. God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) was/ is in perfect communion with Himself. He's never been lonely.

- c. God never needed anything in order to feel complete and validated.

** God did not create man because He was lonely. God created man because He chose to share His all-encompassing love with another who didn't deserve it.*

- d. God wasn't lonely. Neither was Adam (in his unfallen state).
- e. Every evening (in the cool of the garden) God would sit down and personally hang out with Adam.
 - i. Before God called Adam to marriage (before He fashioned Eve from Adam's rib), God called man to Himself.
 - ii. And then God made an everlasting covenant with man (uniting Him with man forever).

- B. God chose the Family Relationship to make Himself known in the earth.

- 1. One of the most indisputable evidences for the existence of God: A people (Israel).
 - a. Other pagan gods/idols are identified as the god of the sun, moon, rivers, etc.
 - b. In contrast, Jehovah-God chose to be known as God of a people... a family.
- 2. God chose a people, a family in which to make His name famous!

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’ (Gen. 3:14-15)

- i. Marriage mirrors God's covenant commitment to a people who don't necessarily deserve His love.

3. Myth: God designed marriage to bring mankind happiness.
 - a. God doesn't have anything against happiness.
 - i. He is the God of delight.
 - b. He created you that you might experience unadulterated delight in him alone.
 - i. *"God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him."* (John Piper)

C. God chose Family Relationship to make us more like Him in the earth.

1. Paul Prayed God's Will (**1 Thess. 3:11-13, 4:1-3**)

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

*¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality. (**1 Thess. 3:11-13, 4:1-3**)*

- a. God's ultimate will for your life is sanctification (holiness).

Sanctification (hagiosmos #38): holiness, to be set apart, to be distinguished, to be different in character and activity.

- b. The end game for our lives is not personal happiness, but personal and eternal holiness.
 - i. Whether married or single... holiness.

2. For centuries, Christians have viewed celibacy as the ultimate mission field to develop holiness.
 - a. The most holy thing you could do was isolate yourself and become a monk or a nun.

- b. What if we in this generation began to look at marriage the same way that Medieval believers viewed monasteries?
 - i. As the perfect setting to develop spiritual maturity and take on opportunities to sacrificially serve others.
- 3. Holiness is non-negotiable.
 - a. How/ Where we work it out this holiness can vary depending on your gift. (**1 Cor. 7:7**)

“For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.” (1 Cor. 7:7)

**If you have the gift of marriage, then God has given you marriage to develop some things in you that you may not have developed otherwise (as you serve your spouse in a sacrificial way).*

III. Conclusion:

A. Marriage Is the Ideal Place For God to Develop Sanctification (Sermon on the Mount Lifestyle)

1. Go The Second Mile

³⁸ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’* ³⁹ *But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.* ⁴⁰ *If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.* ⁴¹ *And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.* ⁴² *Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. (Matt. 5:38-42)*

- a. If they demand your shirt... overcoat too.
- b. If they ask you to walk a mile... walk two.

2. Race To Go To Low

⁴³ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’* ⁴⁴ *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matt. 5:43-44)*

3. Remove Traces of a Critical Spirit

"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Matt. 7:1-5)

4. Run to Forgive When Forgiveness is Unfounded

²³Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matt. 5:23-24)

B. Marriage (Home) is the Ideal Place To Display the Type of Character that Jesus Has Toward Us

1. The Bible never promises a crown (reward) to those who are the most happy
 - a. But to he who endures...
 - i. To he who overcomes...
 - b. Persistence in marriage requires an eternal perspective.
2. Marriage is not the source of the believer's happiness.
 - a. Marriage is the primary proving ground wherein God produces sanctification (holiness) in the life of the believer.
 - b. And marriage is God's opportunity to model His persistent, consistent, sacrificial, selfless love to a world who may never see it otherwise.