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## God's Ordination Of Marriage

1. Marriage is one of the most-treasured benefits, which God gives to mankind. It is also one of the most sacred events to ever exist in the eyes of God. Marriage is a time when a man and a woman are joined together, and begin a new life together, which should bring happiness and joy to both for the remainder of their days upon the earth. When a man and a woman are united in holy matrimony, their devotion to one another should be more important than to anyone else, except for their devotion unto God. Their previous family ties are then broken, and their main family ties from that time forward should be to one another. I am not saying that they are to no longer care about their mother and father, or their sisters and brothers, but their main spot of attention, should be upon their marriage. And they are to be the ones who have complete control of their marriage; not their mom and dad, nor their friends, nor anyone else. This is not to say that they should not listen to the advice of others, when it is necessary; but that they are to be the ones who make the final decisions in their marriage, as they seek the leadership of God. So many marriages are corrupted, or put in an uproar, or even many times end up in divorce, simply because of someone outside of the marriage, attempting to persuade the wife or the husband, or both, to make decisions which satisfy them; rather than allowing the married couple to made their own decisions, and run their marriage according to the Word of God. One scripture which we all should remember, is when Jesus was talking to Pharisees in Matt. 18:6: "***Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.***" Greek-chorizo (kho-rid-zo): to come between, to cause to go astray, or to separate. A marriage is to be the unity of two people, and ran only by two people; the husband and the wife.

2. We will look into the Word of God, and see what God has to say about the ordination of Marriage. The first marriage occurred in the Garden of Eden, between the first two human beings which God created; Adam and Eve. We read in Gen. 2:20-25: "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an

help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. 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.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

*A. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother.* As we mentioned in section 1, when a marriage takes place, a man as well as his wife leave their father and their mother. They are then a new family who's main devotion are to be to one another, second to God only.

*B. And shall cleave unto his wife.* Hebrew-dabaq (daw-bak): to cling to, adhere, overtake, to abide with, to stick to, or to become as two who cannot be separated.

*C. And they shall be one flesh.* When a man and a woman are joined together in holy matrimony, they are no longer looked upon by God as being two separate beings, but as one. This is why it is so very important for a husband and a wife to walk together in unity, or in agreement. For when they do not do so, it is very hard for God to be able to do anything for them in any way. It almost ties the hands of God, when they are not in agreement about matters. As we said before, when a man and a woman are joined together in marriage, they become as one person in the eyes of God. And when they are walking in disagreement, it is like a person attempting to go in two different directions at the same time. One half wanting to go one way, and the other half wanting to go the other way. God wants to bless every married couple as much as He possibly can. But we many times hinder Him from being able to do so, due to our contrary actions between one another. May we seek the guiding hand of God in our marriages every day, and always attempt to walk together in agreement.

3. The apostle Paul had much to say about the love between a man and a woman, and about the seriousness of surrendering one unto another in marriage. Eph. 5:22-33 tells us: “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might present it to Himself a

glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

**A. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.** Greek-hupotasso (hoop-ot-as-so): to be in subjection to, or to follow the leadership of.

The wife is expected by God to surrender herself unto the authority and the leadership of her own husband; just as all Christians are expected to be under the authority and the leadership of the Lord Jesus. As she submits herself unto her husband, he is to give her the proper leadership, as well as to promise to protect and care for her, just as Jesus will lead, watch over, protect, and care for all who will be submissive unto Him.

**B. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church.** A husband is to be the head, or the one who takes care of the necessary affairs which affect his wife; such as making sure she feels loved at all times, making sure that she is well protected, and making sure that she is properly provided for. He is to follow the example of Jesus, as being the head of the church. For Jesus always makes sure that the church, or his children, are always aware of his divine love, He always protects his children from harm, and always makes sure that all of their needs are met; as long as they stay fully submitted unto Him.

**C. And He is the Savior of the body.** Jesus is the Savior of the body of Christ, or the church. He went through much persecution and condemnation, even to the point of giving his own life for them, in order to save their souls from Hell. Likewise, the husband may sometimes have to suffer much persecution, and even at times be condemned, because he chooses to stand up and support his wife. There may be people who turn against the husband, and bring every hardship against him that they possibly can, only because he chooses to love and support his wife. And any husband who truly loves his wife, will always be willing to even give up his own life for her, if it were ever necessary.

**D. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to**

their own husbands in every thing. Just as the church realizes that Christ is in full control of all things, and trust Him to take care of all of the matters which they face, the wife must have that same attitude toward her husband. She must trust him to keep all things concerning their marriage under full control, and allow him to make the quality decisions which are best for the welfare of them both.

E. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. A husband is expected to love his wife with all his heart, and let that love be shown in every way. Christ has always loved the church, and He shows each member his love every day of their lives, if they will be submissive unto Him and allow Him to do so. As we mentioned before, He loved every member of the church (and even those who are not yet members) enough to go to the cross and give up his life for them. And the husband is expected to do the same for his wife. Her life should be more important to him than his own. Col. 3:19 tells us: “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Greek-pikraino (pik-rah-ee-no): referring to being angry, or saying things which are sharp, or which tear up or hurt one. Husbands must learn to be patient and kind toward their own wife. Even when a husband may feel as though his wife is wrong, the best thing that he can do, is to just lift them up to God in prayer.

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F. That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. Christ’s main concern was to make the church clean from all sin and unrighteousness. He wanted to sanctify it. Greek-hagiazō (hag-ee-ad-zo): to make blameless, sacred, holy, purify, or to consecrate. Christ sanctified and cleansed the church from sin with the washing of water by the Word. Jesus Christ Himself was the living Word. We read in John 1:1-2: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” This is referring to Jesus. Jesus, being the living Word, sanctified and cleansed the church, just as if they had been washed with new, clean water; by shedding his blood and giving up his life for them on the cross. We are also cleansed as we meditate in the written Word of God. After we become a member of the church of Christ, we must read and meditate in the written Word of God each day of our lives. This helps us to remain strong in our spiritual walk with Christ, and gives meaning to our lives.

G. That He might present it to Himself a glorious church. Greek-doxa (dox-ah)-dignified, honorable, or pleasing. The reason for Christ giving his life for the church, was to make a way that the church, through Him, could be

glorious in his sight; as a righteous church (after being washed in his blood), and one with which He could be well satisfied.

H. Not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. This portion of the verse represents the shortcomings of the church; their sins or their weaknesses. He desired for his church to be clean eternally, and strong in every way. He wanted them to know that they have an eternal way of escape from sin, when they find themselves in places where they have failed and became spiritually weak; and to realize that they can always be righteous in the eyes of the Heavenly Father, through Him. .

I. But that it should be holy and without blemish. Jesus wanted to make a way for the church to be able to walk in holiness, and not have to live with scars and stains on their lives; due to bad past experiences.

J. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. Just as we mentioned earlier in our lesson, when a man and a woman are joined together in holy matrimony, they become as one being in the eyes of God. Therefore, if a man loves his wife, he is also at the same time showing love for himself. Men are expected by God to love and take proper care of their bodies. And when they show love for their wife, they are doing exactly as Jesus expects them to do.

K. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. No sensible human being ever hated his own self, but just the opposite. We usually think of ourselves before we think of anyone else. We should always have a high level of self-esteem; making sure that we walk and live in a respectful manner. Just as Jesus always wants to think highly of the body of Christ, or the church, and see that their needs are met abundantly.

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L. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. Whether we ever think of it or not, we are not only as one being with our wives, but when we get saved from our sins, and washed in the blood of Jesus, we also become as one with Christ. When we go unto the Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus, He does not see us in our old unrighteous, sinful state; but He sees us just as He sees Christ Jesus.

M. For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. Once again, we are reminded of the fact, that when a man decides to become married to a woman, that they are to leave their father and their mother, and begin a new family with their wife; completely independent of the parents. And then they become as one being in the eyes of God.

N. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

There are many things within the Bible, which are great mysteries unto our human minds; and this is one of them. It is sometimes very difficult to understand how two people could be as one being. But in the eyes of God, a married couple is just that; one being in God's eyes. And just the same, when we become children of God, we also become as one being with Christ, in the eyes of God the Father. I believe that many things concerning life, we are not meant to fully understand. Our human minds are not capable of comprehending many of the things which goes on during our lifetime.

O. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself. Paul is telling us here, that every husband; every married man; should have a special love for his own wife. And in doing so, he is also showing love toward himself. As we mentioned before, this matter of a husband and a wife being as one before God, is a very great mystery. He is such a wonderful, marvelous God.

P. And the wife see that she reverence her husband. A wife should always show high reverence or respect for her husband. She should always look up to him as her spiritual leader. She should always respect his decisions. But at the same time, a husband must be an example to his wife, as far as leading her in a way which is pleasing unto God. She should be allowed to give her opinion as to the decision which should be made; especially in matters of high importance; but a wife should not be always nagging at her husband, in order to get him to make the decisions which please her. But a husband's main purpose or intention should be to do what pleases God; not necessarily what always pleases his wife. This is where the husband's relationship with God plays such a very important part. He cannot be a leader to his wife, or to anyone else, if he himself is not continuously being led by the Spirit of God. Some wives want to be the leader in the home; and this is not the way that God intended for it to be. And because of this, some marriages are far from being in the center of God's perfect will. Col. 3:18 also tells us: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." And we also read in 1 Peter 3:1: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the Word, they also may without the Word be won by the conversation of the wives."

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This last verse is telling us, that if the wife will be in subjection unto her husband; even if he is a lost soul, who has never accepted Jesus as his personal Savior; it is possible that he will come to the realization of this

important need, by the example which she sets before him as a Christian. And as we said in an earlier section concerning what a husband should do when he believes that his wife is wrong about a matter, the wife should also do the same concerning her husband; and that is to just lift them up unto God, or leave them in the hands of God. For He is the only one who can ever make any kind of a change in the soul of a person; not us.

4. One area which I would like to comment on just a little bit, before our lesson comes to a close, is something which is going on all over the world today; especially in America. What I am talking about, is how that marriage has been taken for granted, or has been just pushed aside, by so many couples. There are so many men and women today, who have just forgotten all about marriage; or do not want to make the commitment which God requires, for them to be rightly joined together. So many want to live together, and enjoy life together, but they do not want to do it in the way that God would have them to do. So many men and women today, just want to move in and live together, but they do not want to get married. They act like the sacred ceremony does not even exist anymore. If they truly love one another, why should they care to be joined together in marriage? They act as though they do not want to be bound to one another, yet they want to live together just as though they were married. It seems as though they want to be free to break up the affair anytime that they should choose to do so. It happens every day that we live. A couple will live together for a little while, then they will get mad at one another, and then that is the end of their relationship. They split up, just as if their relationship meant nothing at all to one another. It is a horrible shame how many men and women are living in such a sinful condition. It is a disgrace in the eyes of God. All that they are doing, is committing the horrible sin of fornication; every day that they live together. In case you do not know what the word fornication means, it has the exact same meaning as adultery, except it is between two single people who are not married to one another. Both these words are referring to having sinful, sexual relationships. But people do it every day, and act as though they have not done a thing wrong. God can do nothing for people who choose to live in this sinful manner! What has happened to decent living on this earth? Sooner or later, these men and women are going to have to stand before God, and give account of their sinful deeds. Marriage still exists! God has not done away with it, and He never will.

**Conclusion:**

Marriage is the most sacred ceremony in the eyes of God, that a man and a woman ever participate in. It is not to be as a play that is put on before the

world, which is over in a short time; but to be a permanent, lifetime commitment. A husband and a wife are as one being in the eyes of God, once they are joined together in marriage. And the only Godly authorized reason for separation between a husband and a wife is adultery. A marriage is to be a bond solely between the husband and the wife; giving no person the right to interfere with the affairs of the marriage; not a mother, not a father, no person!

The husband and the wife are to love one another more than anyone else, except God. The husband is to be the head and the leader in the marriage; and the wife is to show respect for her husband, or be surrendered unto his control. And the way to win a husband or a wife, when either of them are failing to live a life which is pleasing unto the Lord, is by setting a Godly example before them. Let us ever be thankful unto God for the privilege of marriage. It is the most precious relationship that God could give men and women the opportunity of entering into, as we live upon the earth. The only thing that will ever be more important than our marriage, is our relationship with God Almighty. He must have first place in our life, and our husband or our wife must be second; before absolutely anyone else.

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