

LESSON 29: MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Rejoice in marriage which God _____ to help us fulfill the _____ mandate.

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.

- We affirm that marriage is between one _____ and one _____.
- This is the pattern established in _____ 2 & affirmed by Jesus (Matthew 19).
- Christians should not affirm same sex marriage as _____ by _____.
- _____ was practiced by many of the patriarchs, and the kings of Israel.
- It is never _____ in Scripture but always connected with sinful complications.
- The LBC omits “at the same time”. It appears to rule out _____, period.
- Jay Adams: “one woman man” refers to _____ as prohibited for officers.

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **Genesis 2**
⁴He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. **Matthew 19**

¹⁹And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. **Genesis 4**

“Polygamy never received God’s positive sanction. Rather, we see God’s forbearance and longsuffering with his people, despite their flagrant disobedience of him.” **R.C. Sproul**³¹³

2. Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.

- Some people think Genesis 2 refers to _____.
- It was spoken in the context of the _____.
- There is a _____ that is expressed here. It is not just for the his benefit.
- This mutuality is expressed in _____ as well. Both have them!
- _____ is a purpose of marriage; part of the creation mandate.

³¹³ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 30.

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- Many are _____ childless: infertility, genetic disorders etc.
- In the OT God asserted his desire for _____ through marriage.
- Not simply to fill the earth with people, but to fill the earth with _____ people.
- Marriage is a Christian act & a context for _____ & _____.
- _____ desire was normal in Adam & Eve's original state: not _____.
- As sinners, our sexual desire is _____ in many ways. Temptation abounds!
- Marriage is the holy context for the _____ of our sexual desire & THEIRS.

²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **1 Corinthians 7**

¹⁵Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. **Malachi 2**

¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. **1 Corinthians 7**

⁹But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. **1 Corinthians 7**

“She was equal in dignity, value, and honor with her husband, but was still expected to be submissive to him.” **R.C. Sproul**³¹⁴

3. It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry, who are able with judgment to give their consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, papists, or other idolaters: neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies.

- Creation ordinance: marriage is not _____ to Christians or people of faith.
- Both spouses must be able to give their _____.
- It does rule out “_____” marriages in which parents give children no choices.
- Faithful Christians only marry other _____ Christians; restriction based on faith.
- A faithful Christian should not marry a non-Christian or member of a Christian _____.
- Should not marry someone who is notoriously _____, even if professing faith.

³¹⁴ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 32.

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...¹⁵ lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, ¹⁶and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods. **Exodus 34**

³You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ⁴for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods.

Deuteronomy 7

¹⁰And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, “You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. **Ezra 10**

³⁹A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. **1 Corinthians 7**

4. Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Word. Nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.

- There is an additional class of people that should not marry: close _____.
- Degrees of consanguinity refers to _____. _____ refers to in-laws.
- _____ is ruled out as well including aunts and uncles.
- Leviticus 18:18 prohibits a sister as a rival wife while your first wife is _____.
- Mere _____ does not make a marriage lawful: same sex, incestuous, etc.

⁶“None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 18

¹⁸And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive. **Leviticus 18**

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. **1 Corinthians 5**

5. Adultery or fornication committed after a contract, being detected before marriage, giveth just occasion to the innocent party to dissolve that contract. In the case of adultery after marriage, it is lawful for the innocent party to sue out a divorce: and, after the divorce, to marry another, as if the offending party were dead.

- The Confession recognizes sexual sin after _____ as just cause to break it off.
- They deemed the marriage contract as more binding than we do: needed _____.
- After marriage, they affirmed _____ as just grounds to obtain a divorce.
- Adultery is not punishable by death; we affirm the possibility for _____.
- The offending spouse is treated as if _____; the innocent party is free to remarry.
- Protection of an ‘innocent’ spouse (_____) & earthly consequences for sin.
- The LBC completely omits this paragraph, recognizing _____ grounds for divorce.

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“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house,² and if she goes and becomes another man's wife,³ and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife,⁴ then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. **Deuteronomy 24**

¹⁰“If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. **Leviticus 20**

⁹And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.” **Matthew 19**

“If God himself became involved in divorce proceedings with Israel, it is surely wrong to condemn any and all divorce out of hand.” **Jay Adams**³¹⁵

“The guilty spouse is to be excommunicated in order to protect the innocent party and to allow the innocent party to remarry according to biblical law.” **R.C. Sproul**³¹⁶

“Since marriage is a covenant of companionship, the only proper grounds for divorce are those which absolutely contradict its identity as such.” **Samuel Waldon**³¹⁷

6. Although the corruption of man be such as is apt to study arguments unduly to put asunder those whom God hath joined together in marriage: yet, nothing but adultery, or such willful desertion as can no way be remedied by the church, or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage: wherein, a public and orderly course of proceeding is to be observed; and the persons concerned in it not left to their own wills, and discretion, in their own case.

- Moses permitted divorce due to the _____ of their _____.
- The Confession notes only _____ and “willful _____.”
- Should be attempts to _____ the situation by the church and/or civil magistrate.
- In Ex. 21 desertion includes failure to provide _____, clothing & conjugal rights.
- Willful refusal to _____ them (or refusal to get a _____ to do so) is desertion.
- Being ill, injured and unable to work or deployed is not _____.

¹⁰If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights. ¹¹And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money. **Exodus 21**

¹⁵But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? **1 Corinthians 7**

³¹⁵ Adams, Jay. *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan. 1980, pp. 23.

³¹⁶ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 40.

³¹⁷ Waldron, pp. 302.

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“Even though all divorces are the result of sin, not all divorces are sinful.” **Jay Adams**³¹⁸
“If a man commits adultery and then pleads for forgiveness from his wife, it is her Christian duty to forgive him. She has no other option. But that doesn’t mean that she must stay married to him.” **R.C. Sproul**³¹⁹

Unfortunately the Confession ignores the connection between marriage and the relationship between God and His people. This would help us to glorify and delight in God more fully in marriage. How?

Conclusion:

³¹⁸ Adams, pp. 30.

³¹⁹ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 41.