

The Divine blessing of Marriage

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MARRIAGE ADULTERY & DIVORCE?

What is marriage?

- ▶ The **union** of two people
- ▶ One a **man** and one a **woman**
- ▶ For life
- ▶ In the **public** gaze
- ▶ With a legal **commitment**
- ▶ To provide a new **family** environment
- ▶ Marriage is the **basis** of a stable society

The Edenic standard from the very beginning of creation

- ▶ Genesis 2v24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh
- ▶ The leaving of one family unit to form a new family unit
- ▶ Cleaving together
- ▶ Physical union
- ▶ God's plan not man's opinion
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 6v16
- ▶ Endorsed by Jesus in the New Testament
- ▶ Matthew 19v4-6

Marriage is made by A Vow, Promise, Covenant or Law

- ▶ Malachi 2v14,15
- ▶ The wife of thy covenant
- ▶ Let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth
- ▶ Did he not make one
- ▶ That he might seek a godly seed
- ▶ Ezekiel 16v8
- ▶ Proverbs 31v2
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7v39
- ▶ Romans 7v2,3

Marriage is public not private No secret marriages

- ▶ One of the purposes of marriage is to identify the parties
- ▶ Without knowing someone is married what about adultery?
- ▶ Let everyone have their own husband or wife
- ▶ Marriage is a civil matter for wider society
- ▶ Marriage is not a sacrament of the church
- ▶ The church has no power to marry anyone
- ▶ Witnesses are required to attest to the details of the marriage
- ▶ Often followed by celebration
- ▶ John 2 v 1 – 2 7 - 11

A New Family Unit

- ▶ Malachi 2 v 14 - 16
- ▶ Thy companion
- ▶ The wife of thy youth
- ▶ Whole of life
- ▶ Seek a godly seed
- ▶ Physical or spiritual
- ▶ The LORD hateth putting away
- ▶ Separation or divorce

Misunderstanding and mistakes

- ▶ No word for husband or wife in Greek
- ▶ **His** woman, **her** man
- ▶ Possession by exclusivity **not** ownership
- ▶ **Polygamy**
- ▶ Was permitted under Moses
- ▶ David and Solomon were both married to several women
- ▶ **It did not go well**
- ▶ Every example of polygamy given in scripture went wrong
- ▶ God divorced the northern tribes, so He was no longer married to two sisters Israel and Judah

The divine pattern to be followed

- ▶ Husband and wife
- ▶ Christ and the Ecclesia
- ▶ Ephesians 5 v 22 – 25
- ▶ Not the spiritual following the physical
- ▶ Headship
- ▶ Based on example and sacrifice
- ▶ Command to the husband
- ▶ Love your wives
- ▶ Command to the wife
- ▶ Submit yourselves to your own husbands

Rules for the Priests under Moses

- ▶ Leviticus 21 v 7
- ▶ Rules for the Priests
- ▶ Verses 13 – 15
- ▶ Rules for the High Priest
- ▶ Ezekiel 44 v 22,23
- ▶ Rules for the future Levitical priesthood
- ▶ Made Kings and priests now
- ▶ Revelation 1 v 4 - 6
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 39

Three types of marital status in scripture

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 8 - 9
- ▶ Unmarried and widows
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 10 - 11
- ▶ The married
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 12 - 17
- ▶ The rest.....a third class
- ▶ As the Lord hath distributed to every man
- ▶ So let him walk

The rest..... Who are they?

- ▶ **Betrothed or espoused**
- ▶ Matthew 1 v 18 - 20
- ▶ Put her away privily
- ▶ **Concubine or bondwoman**
- ▶ Galatians 4 v 22 - 24 , 30
- ▶ Cast out
- ▶ **Polygamy**
- ▶ Jeremiah 3 v 6 - 11
- ▶ I had put her away and given her a bill of divorcement

The changes of the Law under the Lord Jesus Christ

- ▶ Luke 16 v 16 - 18
- ▶ Earlier challenge to the Jews
- ▶ The law permitted polygamy
- ▶ Now under the new prophet like unto Moses
- ▶ Adultery for both the husband who puts away
- ▶ Adultery also for the wife who remarries
- ▶ No exceptions
- ▶ His adversaries seized upon this change to entrap him

A return to the Edenic standard

- ▶ The Jews had different understandings about Mosaic divorce
- ▶ Matthew 19 v 3 - 6
- ▶ 1 For every cause
- ▶ 2 Because her husband hateth her
- ▶ 3 To secure his seed
- ▶ 4 A matter of uncleanness
- ▶ Matthew 19 v 7 - 8
- ▶ Mosaic permission
- ▶ Because of the hardness of your hearts

Matthew 5 - Christ **changed** the Law of Moses in many ways

- ▶ Matthew 5 v 17
- ▶ Not come to destroy but to fulfil
- ▶ Matthew 5 v 27 - 28
- ▶ To look for the purpose of lust is sin
- ▶ Jesus regulated the unseen
- ▶ Verses 31 - 32
- ▶ Put away not enough give a divorce!
- ▶ But I say unto you
- ▶ Causeth her to commit adultery
- ▶ By being put away she is now regarded as available!
- ▶ Whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery!

So how can we understand what Jesus was saying about marriage?

- ▶ Would God leave us in a position of doubt or uncertainty over something so important and part of daily life?
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 10 - 11
- ▶ I command yet not I but the Lord
- ▶ Paul under inspiration is commenting on Jesus' teachings
- ▶ Let not the wife depart from her husband
- ▶ But and if she depart
- ▶ Let her **remain** unmarried or be reconciled to her **husband**
- ▶ And let not the husband put away his wife

Marriage is not for everyone

- ▶ Eunuchs
- ▶ Matthew 19 v 10 – 12
- ▶ If ... be so....it is not good to marry
- ▶ Made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 32 – 33
- ▶ Singular devotion versus split affection
- ▶ Verse 38
- ▶ So then, he that giveth her in marriage doeth well but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better
- ▶ Verse 7 But every man hath his proper gift of God.....

Marriage only in the Lord

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7 v 39
- ▶ Only in the Lord
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 6 v 14
- ▶ Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers
- ▶ She is at liberty to be married to whom she will.....
- ▶ Free choice by both parties within certain limitations
- ▶ No close blood ties
- ▶ No divorced parties
- ▶ No unbelievers

A Bible example of grace and spirituality – raising a godly seed

- ▶ Aquila & Priscilla
- ▶ Mentioned five times together in scripture
- ▶ Acts 18 v 18 **Accompanied** Paul on his work
- ▶ Verse 26 **Expounded** ... the way of God more perfectly
- ▶ Romans 16 v 3 My **helpers** in Christ Jesus
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 16 v 19 The **Ecclesia** that is in their house
- ▶ 2 Timothy 4 v 19 Salute Prisca and Aquila ...**endured** to the end
- ▶ Often Priscilla is put first, but they worked in **tandem** together, sharing their lives and their service to God and to His Son

The virtuous woman

The perfect bride

- ▶ Proverbs 31 v 10 – 31
- ▶ A strong and independent woman
- ▶ An help meet to her husband
- ▶ Supporting him and submitting to him
- ▶ Verse 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her
- ▶ Verse 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life
- ▶ Verse 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
- ▶ Verse 28 Her husband also calls her blessed and he praises her

The Divine Pattern set out

- ▶ Romans 13 v 14
- ▶ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof
- ▶ **God has married** One Nation His people
- ▶ **Israel**
- ▶ Therefore He will **never** divorce them despite their adultery
- ▶ **Christ has espoused** himself to One Body
- ▶ **His Ecclesia**
- ▶ Therefore He **can** put such away before consummation of their marriage in the coming Kingdom Age of future glory

The Apostolic Ecclesia

Something about us

- ▶ A small
- ▶ Unregarded
- ▶ Bible based
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Of baptised
- ▶ Believers
- ▶ Eagerly awaiting
- ▶ The return
- ▶ Of Jesus Christ

Bible references

- ▶ Luke 12v32
- ▶ Acts 28v22
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3v15
- ▶ Ephesians 4v16
- ▶ Galatians 3v27
- ▶ Mark 16v16
- ▶ Matthew 24v42
- ▶ Luke 19v12
- ▶ Revelation 22v20