

# MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE (I)

## *Creation of Mankind and Steps Toward Marriage*

### Introduction

- 1) Marriage is one of the most important, desired, and intimate of earthly relationships
  - a) We should desire that it is understood correctly and a blessed relationship before God
- 2) The world today is confused and misled on the truth about what marriage is and how to prepare for it – leads to fornication, unhappy marriages, divorce, and adulterous remarriages
- 3) God and His word must be our guide and instruction in every aspect of marriage (2 Pet. 1:3)
  - a) It is God’s authority, not man’s authority, that determines what is true and right (Heb. 13:4)
  - b) The world and many religions give inadequate attention to these matters, but we must study the word of God to know the truth and how to apply it

### I) God Created Mankind as Male and Female

- A) **Genesis 1:27** – “male and female He created them” – clear distinction of gender and sex
  - 1) Necessary for reproduction of human race (Gen. 1:28); seen throughout God’s creation
- B) First marriage made possible when the first woman was brought to the first man (Gen. 2:22)
  - 1) Compatibility between sexes (v. 23 – more than just physically, see Prov. 18:22)
  - 2) Joined together “as one flesh” (v. 24 – unity of body and purpose, see 1 Cor. 6:12-20)
- C) Marriage is the only realm authorized by God for the sexual relationship (Heb. 13:4)
  - 1) Outside of lawful marriage is *fornication* (*porneia* – any illicit sexual intercourse) and *adultery* (*moichos* – specific application to those violating marriage bond)
  - 2) Worldly sinfulness – living together, “hooking up,” teen pregnancies, easy divorce (Eph. 2:3-4)
    - a) Many believe living together prevents divorce. 67% of those currently married cohabited before marriage with one or more partners. “A very high percentage of people in the U.S. cohabit outside of marriage. It is now normative behavior”  
([www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sliding-vs-deciding/201807/the-risks-couples-moving-in-together](http://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sliding-vs-deciding/201807/the-risks-couples-moving-in-together))
  - 3) Teach children right vs. wrong so they will know and follow the will of God (Gen. 39:9)
- D) Marriage must never be “redefined” to involve “same-sex” or any other unauthorized relationship other than one man and one woman (1 Cor. 7:2)
  - 1) On average, globally, 80% identify as heterosexual, 3% as gay, lesbian or homosexual, 4% as bisexual, 1% as pansexual or omnisexual, 1% as asexual, 1% as “other”, and 11% don’t know or won’t say. (LGBTQIA+) ([https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2021-06/LGBT%20Pride%202021%20Global%20Survey%20Report\\_3.pdf](https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2021-06/LGBT%20Pride%202021%20Global%20Survey%20Report_3.pdf))
  - 2) Sexual relationship of male and female to be fulfilled in marriage (vv. 3-5)

### II) Important Steps Toward Marriage

- A) Boys and girls eventually reach an awareness of their attraction to one another
  - 1) Sometimes “acted out” too early by children mimicking those they see on TV or in magazines – sexual information is portrayed too openly and falsely in our society
  - 2) Encourage children to enjoy youth without growing up too fast to be like the world
- B) The proper time will come for young men and women to have “get-togethers” and seek out dates with one another with a view towards finding a mate for marriage
- C) Things desirable in a dating partner (who could become our mate for life)
  - 1) **Attractiveness** – care of outward appearance, gentle and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:3-4)
  - 2) **Good reputation** – good name, careful about choices (Prov. 22:1; Ruth 3:11)
  - 3) **Good circle of friends** – choice of friends demonstrates good judgment (1 Cor. 15:33)
  - 4) **Honest and polite** – pattern of godly living that will last a lifetime (Ruth 2:13)
  - 5) **Spiritually-minded** – puts God and His righteousness first (Matt. 6:33)

D) Engagement – the preparation for the marriage (not just for the wedding)

- 1) A serious promise to marry – not to be made hastily or flippantly
- 2) Should *already* have determined fitness of partner for marriage
- 3) Many today see it as status symbol (ring) or game to play – dangerous!

#### Conclusion

A **good marriage** is like a good wedding – a great deal of planning and preparation go into it. It does not just happen. Unfortunately, many put careful and extensive work into having a great wedding, but little to no preparation for a successful marriage. Let us obey God who blessed man with this relationship. May we strive and prepare for godly and happy marriages!

#### **Part 2 – Origin, Purpose, Perversions, and Challenges of Marriage**