

Marriage - cont.

Sixth, remove any sin and shame (Genesis 2:25; 3:7-10).

Seventh, continue your courtship (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

Eighth, speak and treat each other respectfully (Proverbs 12:4; 31:11-12, 28).

Ninth, guard your sexual thoughts toward others (Exodus 20:14,17; Proverbs 2:16-17; 6:24-29; Hebrews 13:4).

Tenth, take your roles seriously and fulfill them faithfully (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

Eleventh, pray together regularly (1 Peter 3:7).

Twelfth, avoid unnecessary nagging and fault-finding (Colossians 3:19; Proverbs 21:19; 27:15).

Lastly, keep God and Christ at the center of your marriage (Psalm 127:1; Matthew 7:24). Marriage is indeed honorable, so let's work to keep it that way.

- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

Many people I know like to be in charge of their own affairs. It is natural to want to be in control of one's life. However, when it comes to my eternal destiny, I need to let God be in control of my life. I need to let God be in the "driver's seat" of my life. When someone else is driving, I trust them to know how to drive, to have the right directions for the way, and to keep me safe. In life, God will do that for me. Maybe this week I need to switch with God and let him be in the driver's seat.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Marriage Is Honorable

*Let marriage be had in honor among all,
and let the bed be undefiled: for
fornicators and adulterers
God will judge*
- Hebrews 13:4 -

What are your views on marriage? Do you believe it to be an important institution enough to join in it. If you are married, are you faithful to your spouse?

The current state of marriage in the United States is in decline. Marriage has fallen on hard times. There are many people who refuse to get married because they think it is a hindrance to their life. Sex without marriage is also very popular (births to unmarried woman is now around 39% in this country).

Other people engage in short-term co-habitation or marriage. Some have extra-marital affairs and many get divorces. The divorce rate in this country is around 50%.

When marriage problems arise, many turn to spouse abuse, divorce, or even murder. Many do not know where to turn for help or how to cope with their marital problems.

Others do not want to do the hard work and make the sacrifice it takes to maintain a godly marriage.

What are we to do? Well, we could turn to man for help or we can turn to God. I would suggest that we turn to God because he made us after all and he



knows what is best for us. He ordained marriage and made the rules. He has the answers. We do not need to give up!

What Should Couples Do?

Let's consider a few things taken from God's word that couples can do to keep their marriage the way God wants

it to be.

First, remember that God joined you two in marriage, not just the state (Genesis. 2:18-24; Matthew 19:6,26). God wants you to stay together even though man does not.

Second, remember that marriage is good and honorable even though many Americans do not believe that (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; Hebrews 13:4).

Third, resolve among yourselves that divorce is not an option (Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11,39). A divorce without the proper cause (for fornication), is a violation God's law and any remarriage after such a divorce is adultery.

Fourth, establish your own home and do not let the in-laws interfere to the point of causing problems (Genesis 2:24).

Fifth, focus on pleasing each other (Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 24:5; Proverbs 5:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:3-7,34).
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