

Proverbs: Family

Introduction

What is marriage?

Matthew 19:4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female',⁵ and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Marriage is gift of God in which a man and a woman form a special, exclusive and lifelong (though temporary from an eternal perspective) relationship, acknowledged and honoured by the community, in which they become a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

The significance and insignificance of earthly marriage.



Remember we are all part of the ultimate marriage by faith.

We often say that Jesus was single, and of course this is true. But Jesus was single in his earthly life because he came for a far greater marriage. Jesus is THE bridegroom. The Church is THE bride.

Three words on family life:

1. Responsibility

^{19:13} A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

^{19:18} Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Common Worship Marriage Service: "Marriage is a gift of God in creation... No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God."

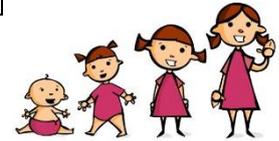
As a result the church does not allow people to make up their own vows.

2. Fruitfulness

^{12:4} A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

^{23:22} Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. ²³ Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding. ²⁴ The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

What do we really want for our children to be when they grow up?



3. Delight

^{5:15} Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. ¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer--may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

^{17:6} Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

^{18:22} He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the LORD.

God's view of marriage, sex, and family life is extremely positive. Christians must never let the world claim the concept of delight in this area!

Application:

1. Do not idolise marriage and family life.
2. Do treat it with the care, attention and seriousness that is right.