

**Series: Hebrews**

**Lesson #: 62**

**Title: Marriage is Honorable In All**

**Scripture: Hebrews 13: 4**

**Date: Jan 18, 2009**

**Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey**

**Hebrews 13: 1: Let brotherly love continue. 2: Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3: Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. 4: Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**

**Proposition:** This exhortation has to do with brotherly love in a three-fold way.

1) In the way a husband and wife treat each other. (If both have been brought to saving faith in Christ then they can not neglect each other without neglecting one for whom Christ died.)

2) It has to do with brotherly love in the way that we respect the marriage union of our fellow brother and sister. We should never conduct ourselves in a way that would disrespect the marriage union of couples within the church. (In this regard, the teaching speaks to those who are married and single.)

3) It has to do with the essence of what brotherly love is and how uncleanness in no way honors Christ's union with us. Brotherly love is the spirit a believer possesses in our persons; it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit within a believer. It is not brotherly love merely because it is reciprocated between two believers. Brotherly love is the spirit within a believer even when we are dealing with those who are not brethren and even when we are shown no love by those with whom we are dealing. Brotherly love is the spirit we have by virtue of Christ's union with us. Therefore, one of the warnings taught the believer since the beginning is to abstain from uncleanness--fornication and/or adultery--for in these we dishonor our union with Christ.

### **I. Marriage is honorable in all**

**Genesis 2: 20: And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help, meet for him. 21: And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22: And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23: And Adam said, *This is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24: Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**

Notice a few things:

1. The institution of marriage was the first thing God did after he created the world and man--the union between Christ and his people--God's glory--is the preeminent reason God made the world and man.

**Isaiah 54:5: For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.**

2. After God had created, on each day we read, and 'God saw what He had made, that it was good.' But when Adam was made, 'God saw it was not good that the man should be alone.' As to man the creative work was not complete, until, there should be found for Adam an help, MEET FOR HIM!

**Matthew 22:2 : The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,**

3. Notice the bride-Eve-was created out of Adam--her "fitness" was of him--even so Christ's church, and each member in particular, was created in him, by him and for him--he has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

**Ephesians 2: 10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

**Ephesians 4: 22: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23: And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.**

4. Adam had to be put into a deep sleep in order for God to create his bride.

**John 15:13: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**

5. Adam rejoiced over his bride saying, Genesis 2: 23: **This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**

**Ephesians 1: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

**Ephesians 5: 22: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24: Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28: So ought men to love their wives as their own**

bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29: For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33: Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

**Revelation 21:9:** And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

#### 6. Our text in Hebrews 13: 4: says....AND THE BED UNDEFILED

For those joined together lawfully, according to God's word--(especially two believers) the conjugal union of a husband and wife being undefiled may speak to the blessed union between Christ, who lawfully did everything necessary before God to make his bride his own and join himself to her so that we are eternally pure.

We would have to be defiled to be put away. But the believer can never be lawfully divided from him.

**Matthew 19:4:** And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, 5: And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6: Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Of the kingdom of God we read: **Revelation 21: 27:** And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

7. So we see, as it is with all things which have been made, marriage was ordained to glorify Christ, the Son of God.

**Ephesians 5: 30:** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32: This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

#### A WARNING

**Hebrews 13: 4:** Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Brotherly love is the spirit we have by virtue of Christ's union with us. Therefore, one of the warnings taught the believer since the beginning is to abstain from uncleanness--fornication and/or adultery--for in these we dishonor our union with Christ.

The Lord's people--through his word, through the gospel, through the glorious illustration of this marriage union between Christ and his bride, and by God's power working within us--we are made to abhor such uncleanness as fornication and adultery.

Just as marriage illustrates, like nothing else, the union between Christ and his bride, fornication and adultery illustrate like nothing else the union of a sinner with this adulterous world. If we can yet forsake Christ, we were never married to him and indeed we shall be judged.

**I Corinthians 6: 13:...**Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. **14:** And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. **15:** Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid. **16:** What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. **17:** But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. **18:** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. **19:** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20:** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

You notice that God did not make many wives for Adam, only one. He made one man and one woman--after the image of God--that they might produce a godly seed--or legitimate offspring. Fornication, or adultery (putting away your wife to marry another) is an illustration of leaving Christ for a strange god which produces illegitimate children.

**Malachi 2: 10:** Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers? **11:** Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. **12:** The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts. **13:** And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand. **14:** Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. **15:** And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. **16:** For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for *one* covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously. **17:** Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied *him*? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

We are being told here in our text that the marriage bed for a husband and wife is the antidote against adultery and uncleanness. But the spiritual application is, giving ourselves to Christ alone is the antidote against all sin and unbelief. Evidence that this is so is seen in the fact that the one exception Paul gives for a husband and bride not submitting to each other is that they might give themselves to Christ.

**I Corinthians 7: 2: Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband....5: Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**

APPLICATION: How vital is the marriage of Christ to his church in order for the church and kingdom of God to exist. It is as vital as marriage between a man and a woman in order for the world to exist?

Would a populated world exist unless God ordained marriage between a man and a woman? Honorable citizens in a country are made up of honorable sons and daughters. But before there can be honorable sons and daughters--before there can be brethren--there must be honorable husbands and wives. But to the same degree that marriage between a man and a woman degenerates into dishonor in a society so the whole society degenerates.

So it is with Christ and the church. The church is populated with sisters and brothers concerned for the honor of their Father because he is a faithful Husband to his Bride. If his honor toward his bride could diminish so could the brethren and so would his church. But he will not allow it. That is why this warning against uncleanness and adultery is such a warning to be heeded.

Our most dire necessity is the marriage union between us and Christ. There is no better illustration given than the marriage union between a husband and his bride. We realize it by the fact that behind our union with Christ in conversion, marriage is the most monumental event that happens in the life of a man and woman. And behind that it is the birth of their children. That is not by accident but by divine design for the glory of Christ.

**Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.**