

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skills in Godly Marriage - Pt 1

A. The Foundations of Marriage and Family

1. Framed in the Biblical Context

- a. God shows man his need and then His provision - Ge 2:19-25
- b. Jesus' response to a question about divorce - Mt 19:3-6

2. Man's Need - Ge 2:7-9, 15-18

- a. Creation events, are historical, Proverbs is poetry
 - i. Ge 1 is a chronological overview
 - ii. Ge 2 is more of a close-up shot of some details of the creation of man
- b. Moses shows that man is provided for in almost every area
 - i. Made in the image of God
 - ii. Had the basic spiritual and intellectual capacity needed
 - iii. Had his work - tend the garden, have dominion
 - iv. Had Company - Fellowship with God

c. God said, "Good," "Good," "Good," and then "Not Good" = still had a need

d. What was not good?

- i. He had the love of God
- ii. He had a sense of purpose
- iii. He didn't have a "a helper corresponding to him"
 - Helper - assistant, aid, helper - could be equal, inferior or superior
 - Corresponding to - like-opposite him - complimentary - fills in the parts lacking - will assist and be a companion (partner) to him
- iv. Could not be found among the animals, only Eve could share humanity, bearing the image of God with him, reproduce with him.

e. Since God created her to be a helper corresponding to him, she would find her fullest joy embracing that for which God created her

f. Proverbs will speak to 2 types of wives - Pr 14:1 (cover that later)

3. Phase two - Ge 2:21-25

a. Man's recognition of Eve's purpose - vs 23

- i. claiming her as his own - named her
- ii. Marriage is established - vs 24

b. enjoyed mutual vulnerability working and serving God - vs 25

B. God's Design - according to His eternal purpose - Eph 1:11; 3:11

1. The End

a. Dominion - Ge 1:26

b. Man created distinct from animals - in the image of God - given a charge

c. Marriage does not interrupt or become an obstacle to the God given task

2. The Means

a. Creating a staff - Ge 1:28

2. The Means

- a. Creating a staff - Ge 1:28
- b. Children were not designed to be cute and cuddly
- c. Children were designed to continue the charge
- d. “filling” and “subduing” were complementary

3. The Duration - Ge 2:24; Mt 19:6

- a. God’s Intention - Permanency within this life - Mt 22:29-30
- b. First Error - May never and can never be dissolved
 - i. like saying murder should never happen, so no need for Police
 - Police exists b/c sinners don’t always follow the rules
 - Divorce exists b/c sin exists
 - ii. The intent is permanence, but sin changes the equation
 - iii. The Bible gives grounds for divinely permitted dissolution of a marriage - **De 24:1-4; Mt 5:31-32; 19:9; 1 Co 7:13-15**
- c. Second Error - b/c it can be dissolved, it can be dissolved for any reason
 - i. though God does allow some grounds for dissolution, they are specific and restricted
 - ii. Divorce is always the least-worst option
 - God hates divorce - Mal 2:16
 - divorce always means sin and treachery

4. Foundational Pledge - Ge 2:24

- a. Covenant
 - i. not equal to contract, deal or treaty
 - ii. A regulated relationship
 - binds people together
 - defines the relationship, fills in the participant’s responsibilities to each other
- b. Two types
 - i. Bilateral Covenants
 - two sided - conditional
 - if you do A, I will do B - Sinai - Ex 19:5-6
 - ii. Unilateral Covenants
 - unconditional - no ifs - Compare Ge 12:1-3; 15:9-21
 - one party pledges to do for the other
- c. Marital Covenant
 - i. a bilateral conditional covenant
 - ii. Specific circumstances **ALLOW** for abrogation - **De 24:1-4; Mt 5:31-32; 19:9; 1 Co 7:13-15**
 - iii. Suggested nature of marriage - leave/ cleave - Ge 2:24
 - iv. Covenantal language of marriage - Pr 2:17; Mal 2:14
 - v. exclusive commitment through the sexual union - “the two shall become one flesh”

5. Practical Impact

- a. Understand the above or don't make sense of what the Bible says about Marriage and Divorce
- b. Go wrong on the above and not understand the nature and relationship of Christ and the Church - 2 Co 11:2; Eph 5:22-32; Rev 19:7
- c. Truth about vows
 - i. vows made require complete follow through - Nu 30:2
 - ii. vows made require prompt follow through or incur sin - De 23:21-23
 - iii. vows made require follow through even if it cost him - Ps 15:1-2,4b
 - iv. After making a vow is not the time to think about it's wisdom - Pr 20:25
- d. Marriage by nature is a vow - Ge 2:24; Pr 2:17; Mal 2:14

6. Value for the unmarried

- a. The benefit of the unmarried understanding these truths
 - i. the concern over the divorce rate scares some
 - ii. Having the wrong idea of what marriage is really like - fantasy
- b. Who do I marry?
 - i. The Christian norm - there is one special person that God has for you
 - ii. God's word gives us principles to find someone special and make it work for God's glory
 - 1 Co 7:39 - she is free to marry whom she wishes,
 - only in the Lord
 - Proverbs teaches what a wise wife or man is like
 - learning everything one can so that they may choose wisely
 - appl God's standards of wisdom in the search