

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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What Is Marriage?

A few years ago, if one would have looked up the definition for marriage it would have read, “a legal union of a man and woman” (The American Century Dictionary). However, if one would Google the definition for marriage today it would read, “The legally or formally recognized union of a man and a woman or, in some jurisdictions, two people of the same sex as partners in a relationship.” So, now the question is what is marriage? Well, I suggest to you that...

Marriage Was Designed By God and Is For The Union of A Man and A Woman.

God was the One who designed marriage. Why? Well, because, after God created man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7) He said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him*” (Genesis 2:18). God, then caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and then He took a rib from him and made it into a woman (Genesis 2:21-22). You see, God made a woman for man so that he would have a helpmate, and so that he would not be alone. However, the fact of the matter is, God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman, and the man and woman are to be joined together (i.e. united in marriage) and they are to become one flesh (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6).

Marriage Is A Partnership With Designed Roles.

The apostle Paul wrote, “*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church...*” (Ephesians 5:22-23). Here, Paul is comparing the partnership of marriage between a man and a woman to the relationship of Christ and the church, and just as Christ is the head of the church, so man is to be the head of the wife. Likewise, husbands are to love and honor their wife (Ephesians 5:28; 1 Peter 3:7), and wives are to love and respect their husband (Ephesians 5:33; Titus 2:4-5). My friends, when men and women understand, and respect the role of one another in the marriage relationship, they will be better equipped to enjoy a partnership that is pleasing not only to one another, but also, one that is pleasing to God (Ecclesiastes 9:9).

Marriage Is Honorable.

The Hebrew writer penned, “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*” (Hebrews 13:4). You see, marriage is honorable among all, but only if it is a proper union of a man and a woman. Why? Well, first of all that is how God designed marriage to be (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9). Secondly, marriage is only honorable if it is a proper union between a man and a woman, because homosexuality is an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13).

Therefore, men and men or women and women cannot be united together in marriage, and have an honorable marriage before God, for again, it must be a proper union between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-5). Likewise, those guilty of adultery cannot unite in marriage to another and be pleasing to God (Matthew 19:9; Romans 7:2-3), for by doing so, they will be in an adulterous relationship, instead of an honorable one before God.

Marriage Is For Life.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus the question concerning a man divorcing his wife for any reason, Jesus replied, *“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, For this a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Matthew 19:4-6). Friends, first notice what Jesus said in (v.4). He said, God, in the beginning, made them male and female. Not male and male or female and female, but rather male and female. Secondly, Jesus quoted (Genesis 2:24) concerning a man being joined to his wife, and the two becoming one flesh. Finally, Jesus said in (v.6) what God has joined together, let not man separate. You see, marriage is a life-long commitment between a man and a woman, and Jesus goes on to explain in (v.9) that the one and only exception for divorce is sexual immorality (i.e. fornication). Therefore, all who marry must take those words of Jesus to heart, and when you say until death do us part, you better mean it.

These are just a few examples of what God’s word says about marriage. I believe that we all probably noticed that nothing is mentioned about marriage being anything except a union between a man and a woman. So, to answer our question, marriage is, “a union between a man and a woman which God had designed from the very beginning. Marriage is a partnership which has designated roles. Marriage is honorable, and it is a life-long commitment.” Now, although some are trying to redefine marriage, and make it something other than what God intended for it to be, we need to always remember to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

✍️ Brad Phillips

Blessings & Reverses

Every person has many blessings and at least a few misfortunes. The ones he reflects upon will either strengthen or weaken him.

Our most necessary blessings are apt to be uncounted, because they are the most common: sunshine, rain, oxygen, soil, plants, animals, and a thousand other workings of nature.

The universality of so many blessings, however, does not lower their value. If this commonness tempts us to be ungrateful, let us ask: Where would we stand if the earth caved in? What would we breathe if the oxygen ran out? What would we do if the water dried up?

Leroy Brownlow

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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