Playing House: No Longer (Married!)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 14th, 2024

Text: Hebrews 13:4 Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:21-25

### Intro

1. **Hebrews 13:4:** Marriage is honorable – to engage in anything else is to accept judgment!
2. Fornication is sinful, can keep one out of Heaven, and is harmful *(I Corinthians 6:9-10, 13, 18).*
3. Cohabiting is sinful, and despite the various “defenses” for it, people engaged in such are “playing house” and have deluded themselves into thinking they are a real family.
4. Times have changed and people’s opinions have changed, but God’s will and His opinion has not changed (Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8).
	1. We are called as Christians to live in the world, but not to be of the world *(I Corinthians 5:9-10).*
	2. Our challenge is to be salt and light to the world while not conforming to the patterns of the world. *(Matthew 5:13-16)*
	3. Unfortunately, because we Christians live in the world, we are prone to take on the attitudes and behaviors of the world.
	4. Whenever society promotes and approves of that which God does not, it becomes a challenge for the church to maintain God’s standards in the church.
5. **I Corinthians 5:9-13:** The situation Paul was addressing involved a man who was living with his father’s wife (I Corinthians 5:1).
	1. Paul said that kind of immorality wasn’t even acceptable among unbelievers!
	2. So we learn from that verse that it is not our responsibility to enforce righteous standards for those in the world, but we must maintain righteous standards for those inside the church.
6. The world will progress from bad to worse *(II Timothy 3:13)* but saints need to teach the truth no matter what!
	1. **Hebrews 13:4:** Marriage is honorable – God will judge all other relationships!
7. Men and women need to wake up and “play house” no longer – get married and be the family God designed!

#### Purpose for Marriage

* 1. Marriage:
		1. God created man with certain appetites such as the sexual urges.
		2. God, also, originated a way to fulfill those desires. For the sexual desires, God instituted marriage—one man for one woman until death.
		3. An examination of the topic of marriage in the Bible reveals that there are four purposes which God ordained in marriage:
	2. Companionship:
		1. **Genesis 2:18:** In the beginning, God decreed that it was “not good that man should be alone.”
		2. God created a “helper” for him—a woman to be his companion. Someone to share his joys and his sorrows.
		3. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: Two are better than one: To work together, protection from falling, warmth, and power.
	3. Sexual Satisfaction:
		1. **Genesis 2:24:** Sexual appetite is as natural and honorable as food and drink appetite if it is kept in its proper place—marriage.
		2. Hebrews 13:4: “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
		3. I Corinthians 7:2 (ESV): “But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”
		4. In marriage, a man and a woman can be intimate and, yet, remain spiritually and morally pure (I Corinthians 7:9).
	4. Reproduction:
		1. **Genesis 1:27-28:** Marriage is where the home begins for God blessed the first union and said, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth…”
		2. In this light, “children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3-5). *(Genesis 4:1, 25: Eve gave thanks to God for her sons)*
	5. Training of Children:
		1. **Proverbs 1:8-9:** Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck.
		2. Since marriage is for reproduction, it is only natural that marriage be used for the training of those that are procreated.
		3. A home with a father and a mother is the best place to raise children.
		4. Ephesians 6:4: Paul exhorts parents to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
		5. When raising children with morals and values, we bless our children, ourselves, and the world in which we and they live.
		6. II Timothy 3:2: Children who grow up “disobedient to parents” are part of the problem of any fall of society *(3:1: “Difficult times will come”).*
	6. Mark 10:6-9: When Jesus spoke of marriage, He taught that it was “from the beginning of creation.”
		1. The “one flesh” in this passage and others have reference in part to the sexual relationship of a husband and his wife.
		2. Sex is fully commended in marriage and fully condemned outside of the marriage relationship (I Corinthians 6:9-10, 13, 16-20; Galatians 5:19-21).
	7. Marriage is God’s definition of a family and has been since the beginning of creation!

#### What the Scriptures Say About Marriage

1. God’s purpose and design for sexuality and marriage is revealed at the very creation of humankind – **Genesis 2:7, 18**-23:
	* 1. Why is this passage so significant for understanding God’s blueprint for marriage?
		2. First of all, because here God declares His intentions for male and female relationships at the beginning of creation.
			1. As God created the heavens and the earth, He instituted things that would be a part of His creation for as long as His creation will exist, things such as natural laws.
			2. And along with those natural laws, God ordained how the relationship between man and woman would be.
			3. God allowed Adam to see all the creatures that God created and get to name them (Genesis 2:19-20) and he saw there was no mate suitable for him.
			4. God made woman as the “helper” suitable for man (2:18, 22)
		3. Second, this is an important passage because it comes before the “Fall of Mankind” (Genesis 3).
			1. Some people try to say that the relationship between men and women might have been different if sin had not entered the world, and God’s marriage arrangement was a result or punishment for the “Fall.”
			2. But we can clearly see that God’s blueprint for marriage was given before sin messed things up in the Garden (Paradise).
2. **Genesis 2:24:** This passage reveals three important parts of God’s plan for marriage:
	* 1. 1st: Leaving: We learn that a man shall leave his father and mother.
			1. The leaving part is significant as the husband and wife leave their parents and families to establish a new family.
			2. ***This established a pattern since Adam & Eve had no earthly parents!***
			3. Marriage has always been a public event and every culture on earth has always had a specific point at which persons clearly left the single life for the married life – the “Leaving” part.
		2. 2nd: Joining: We learn that a man shall be joined to his wife.
			1. The joining (KJV: “cleave”) part means that the two shall “hold fast” (ESV) to one another in a permanent relationship, united (NET) as one.
			2. God intended for this union to be an exclusive, inseparable relationship between one man and one woman for life (Matthew 19:6).
		3. 3rd: Oneness: We learn that the two shall become one flesh.
			1. One flesh means the husband and wife come together in unity and completion.
			2. While there is some mystery surrounding this concept, it is not just some poetic figure of speech – God is saying, “Two people will actually become one entity;” a couple, no longer single!
			3. One flesh also has significant meaning concerning the sexual relationship – I Corinthians 6:15-17: Not to become one flesh in fornication.
3. **Genesis 2:25:** “The man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”
	* 1. The sexual relationship between a husband and a wife delivers perfect intimacy without shame or regret! *(Hebrews 13:4)*
4. To be Scripturally (Lawfully in God’s eyes) married **(Hebrews 13:4):**
5. Lawfully married if man married to a woman (vice versa) – Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9
6. Lawfully married if any previous marriage ended in the death of a spouse (widower, widow) – Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:39
7. Lawfully married if any previous marriage ended with putting a spouse away for adultery (man, woman, or both) – Matthew 19:8-9
8. Lawfully if not a polygamous marriage (multiple wives, concubines, etc.) – Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9
9. Neither spouse engaged in an adulterous affair – Romans 13:9; **Hebrews 13:4**
10. Let’s consider a few N.T. texts that confirm God’s blueprint for marriage:
	* 1. **Mark 10:6-9:** When the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with their questions about divorce, Jesus took them right back to the creation narrative of Genesis 2, where marriage is between a man and a woman.
		2. I Corinthians 7:2 (ESV): Paul wrote, “But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”
		3. Hebrews 13:4: “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
			1. How is the marriage bed kept undefiled?
			2. Marriage is honored and the marriage bed kept pure by avoiding sexual immorality before marriage, and adultery while being married!
11. Ephesians 5:22-25, 33: The husband is the head of the family and the wife is to be in subjection to her husband – not a tyrant, but to love her as his own body – 5:28
12. I Peter 3:1-6: Wives to be in subjection and Sarah is used as a godly example.
13. I Peter 3:7: Husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way, to value them and treat them as fellow heirs of the grace of life. The importance of this is the husband’s prayers could be hindered if he fails and mistreats his wife!
14. Marriage is honorable, but all forms of fornication are sinful (Defiling) and will be judged!

## Conclusion

1. Fornication is sin, no matter what it’s called: “living together” or “Co-habitation.”
2. Cohabitation: The very purpose for living together declares its most basic weakness…
	1. If its purpose is sexual, then it is opposed to God and morality.
	2. If its purpose is a trial for marriage, then it lacks commitment.
	3. This lack of commitment causes it to fail from its onset!
3. Living together (“Playing House”) sets up a relationship for failure.
	1. There is no real or clear commitment.
	2. It involves no legal or social responsibilities.
	3. It is for the moment while marriage is “until death do us part.”
4. What can one do that is in this sinful lifestyle? You are not wrecked beyond repair! You can be forgiven!
	1. Repent and turn away from evil! There are sinful practices that can cost one their soul, and fornication and adultery are among them – I Corinthians 6:9-10.
	2. You can repent of your sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins in the name of Jesus – Acts 2:38; 22:16
	3. **I Corinthians 6:11:** “Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”
	4. God forgave the Corinthian saints (I Corinthians 1:2) so He can forgive you!
	5. **I Corinthians 7:2, 9:** To avoid the sin of fornication (sexual immorality) let them marry!
	6. If a Christian in this situation, if you but repent God will forgive you! Either stop or get married! (I Corinthians 7:2, 9)
5. “Play house” no longer but hold marriage as honorable *(Hebrews 13:4)* and “Flee sexual immorality” *(NKJV: I Corinthians 6:18)!*
6. Make a plan, and a covenant, with the one you love and with God that you will not sin.
7. Don’t let society tell you what is right and acceptable, but seek to do things in the right way according to God.
8. Teach your children and others to seek God’s way in having the right relationships!
9. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent & be baptized for the forgiveness of sins! *(Acts 2:38)*
10. If you are a child of God with sin in your life, you can be forgiven! *(I John 1:9)*
11. Whatever your request, let it be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!