

Facts About Marriage

Jesus taught that Genesis contains God's perfect plan for marriage, and that this divine law is still in effect today.

Mat 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,**

Mat 19:5 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?**

Mat 19:6 **Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

Mat 19:8 He saith unto them, **Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.**

(1) Marriage is a divine institution, and man has no right to change it.

God performed the first marriage ceremony when He brought the woman to the man and made them husband and wife.

(2) Marriages should be "made in heaven."

God still brings men and women together when they yield to Him.

Men and women should seek God's perfect will in this most important matter .

Pro 18:22 *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

(3) Marriage as God designed it is between one man and one woman, not between a man and a man, or between a woman and a woman, or between one man and two women, or between one woman and two men, or between a man and a child, etc.

Jesus taught that God's perfect will for marriage is found in Genesis 2.

(4) The husband and wife are to leave their parents and build a new home.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

(a) To "leave father and mother" does *not* mean to cease to love and honor one's parents, or to cease to help them.

1Ti 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Nor does it mean to cease to listen to their counsel

Pro 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

(b) It means to not give headship to the parents and not allow them to interfere with the marriage in a hurtful way.

Many marriages have been injured, some even destroyed, by husbands and wives allowing their parents undue interference.

(5) The purpose of marriage is three-fold: companionship, children, and help.

(a) The wife is the husband's "helpmeet".

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

This means a "suitable helper."

The woman was divinely prepared to be the man's assistant.

Adam was not given to Eve; Eve was given to Adam to assist him in the business that God had for him in this world.

The man is the head, and it is not the woman's place to rule the man and lead the home.

We will see that Eve erred greatly when she made a decision that was not hers to make.

(b) The husband and wife should be partners and best friends.

They should complement one another rather than compete with one another.

Instead of tearing one another down and belittling one another, the marriage partners should build one another up and bring out the best in one another.

They are one body!

(c) Marriage sanctifies and legitimizes the sexual relationship between the man and woman.

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

The husband and wife must be faithful to their marriage vows.

(d) The man and woman are equal before God but different in their roles in this world.

They are equal in that both are made in God's image and both have eternal spirits.

They are "heirs together of the grace of life", but they have different purposes.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

The husband and wife must give attention to his or her own responsibility before God and not try to change the other person.

The husband's business is to lead the home and provide for the home while treating his wife with love and patience.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 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.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Col 3:19 Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

He is the head but this headship is to be exercised in Christ-like kindness rather than worldly severity.

The woman is his wife and loving companion, not his slave or his doormat.

She is his own body, and how foolish it is for a man to mistreat his own body.

If the husband will focus his attention on his large responsibilities before God, the wife will usually respond by being a better wife.

The wife's business is to submit to the husband and serve him.

Eph 5:23 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.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Tit 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Tit 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

If she will focus her attention on this business, the husband usually responds by being a better and more loving husband.

On the other hand, if the husband tries to force the wife **to** obey him and the wife tries to force the husband **to** love her, it doesn't work and no progress is made in the marriage.