

Satan's Plan to Wreck Marriage

3-31-13

The Bible says "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from Jehovah" (Proverbs 18:22). We have seen so far how God creates marriage ("Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6) and that marriage has a purpose (But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Malachi 2:15a). Ultimately, we have seen that marriage is a divine "enabler" – something which God gives us, that when used correctly, enables us to reach our spiritual potential.

If Satan were to seek to disable us, then he would naturally attack marriage. Not just the idea of marriage in our society, but the individual marriages of Christians too. If Satan wants to ruin the effectiveness of marriage, he must:

- Make marriage appear irrelevant
- Make us not offer what we promised
- Remove Love from Marriage

In 2010 Time Magazine and the Pew Research center conducted an extensive survey into marriage. They reported that "marriage, whatever its social, spiritual or symbolic appeal, is in purely practical terms just not as necessary as it used to be" Additionally, they concluded "Neither men nor women need to be married to have sex or companionship or professional success or respect or even children"

Is it true? Today many people live in a condition of cohabitation outside of marriage. The Bible calls this relationship fornication. However, it is not just the case that this is a sin; it is also detrimental to our lives. Consider that it is a fact that cohabitation increases: poverty; divorce rates; abuse; overall happiness. Consider that children of unmarried parents are more likely to be abused; they have higher levels of poverty; they are more likely to commit crimes.

Christians are particularly targeted by Satan. His desire is to make you break the promises you made in marriage. When we commit to marriage, we commit to meeting the needs of our spouses. Husbands must love their wives (1 Peter 3:7, Colossians 3:19), wives to submit to their husbands (Colossians 3:18). If Satan can make you find a reason not to fulfill your end of the covenant, he has won his purpose.

Satan too seeks to render love ineffective. Love in a one-word definition is sacrifice. Consider John 3:16, for example, which says that God's love moved Him to sacrifice. Satan seeks to cause us to remove the sacrifices of marriage, things like time, forgiveness, and desires for life. He wants us to be self-centered in marriage, and if he can make us seek ourselves first, he removes love from marriage.

If Satan can wreck marriage, he can hurt many people. He can insult God. He can create bitterness to God. Our conduct, in word and in deed, is the means by which he will act.