

Morality of Marriage 9-29-13

In Malachi 2, God accuses Israel of immorality by infidelity. In the second part of that chapter, God condemns Israel for not keeping the terms of their marital covenants. This is immorality in the eyes of God.

The Bible says that “marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled” (Hebrews 13:4). All cultures honor marriage. But we also see a problem in that our society honors marriage less and less. Such a decline is a moral issue worthy of consideration.

“Some studies indicate that married people live longer, benefit from better health, earn more money, accumulate more wealth, feel happier, enjoy more satisfying sexual relationships, and have happier and more successful children than those who remain single, cohabit, or get divorced. Despite such benefits, about half of all recent marriages currently end in divorce and many people choose to be single parents. Although marriage offers great benefits, many people do not want to be married. This is the marriage paradox”¹

God created marriage in Genesis 2:21-25. When we consider it, we know that marriage uniquely survived the Garden with the human race. God gave marriage a Divine Purpose, a Divine Definition, and a Divine Institution (creating point).

God states that the Divine Purpose of marriage is to reflect His divine nature (*But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.* Malachi 2:15).

God gave marriage a Divine Definition when He said He “made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,” (Matthew 19:4) and that it was meant to last until death Romans 7:2). In this relationship God defined the man as a husband, one who makes a total self sacrifice for His mate (Ephesians 5:25-33). He defined the woman as a Wife, one who make total submission to her mate her role (Ephesians 5:22-24).

God is the one who creates marriage. “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Matthew 19:6). He did not make marriage for happiness, He made marriage for Spirituality (*And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* Genesis 2:18)

The immorality of marriage is revealed when these Divine rules are thwarted; Selfish purposes, Contractual Definitions or Spurious Institutioning are the immoral standards of our day.

Selfishness ruins marriage. Whether it is the absence of sacrificial husbands, the absence of wise fathers, or the absence of submissive wives or absence of home structures, our society refuses to conform to the Divine patters of marriage. The world says that “marriage must lead to happiness; if it does not, it is a failure”. But in truth, marriages are not happy or unhappy; people are happy or unhappy. Happiness is not the purpose of Life, and chasing happiness NEVER works.

¹ Psychology Today, February 5, 2010, Dr. Aaron Ben-Zeév

As well, calling marriage a contract is immoral. Marriage is a covenant (“...*your wife by covenant*”. Malachi 2:14). But our society redefined marriage as a contract when it created the “No fault divorce”, which legally rules that marriage is not a covenant, but a contract, and can be broken without anyone being at fault. Now we even observe “Common law marriages”, which are no marriage at all.

Who makes/creates marriage? Some falsely think the church made it; many churches are glad to promote this falsehood. They say you must be “Married in a church” or “Married by a preacher”. Yet which came first, marriage or the church? Unfortunately, this has led others to believe that society makes marriage, and therefore it can define marriage however it wants.

Marriage is NOT created except by God. A divorced person (without cause) who marries another is called married in our society; what men create and call marriage: God calls that relationship adultery – Matthew 19. Two men join together and our society calls it a marriage; God calls that relationship Homosexuality – Romans 1.

From Malachi 2 we see that God judges society by a view of marriage. He judges us personally if we are not upholding our marital purpose and obligations. God purposed, designed and created marriage. The world contests these things; we cannot ever concede the world could be right. Finally, we need to know that contentment in marriage is in the Lord, not in worldliness.