

“What God has joined together let no man separate”

Text: (Matt 19:3-9).

- 1- God hates divorce!! When two become one flesh and that relationship is broken by unfaithfulness God hates it.
- 2- The Prophet Malachi made this statement in (Mal 2:14-16). The prophet was speaking to the Jews with regard to their hypocrisy, infidelity, divorce and marriage relationships. “The Lord God of Israel hates putting away...” (ASV).
- 3- The same holds true with God in today’s society. God still hates putting away. Remember that God is a God who does not change; it is man who has moved the goal posts in marriage (and the home) in 21st century, as they did in the time of the prophets.

Transition: Our lesson is about how we can have happy, successful marriages in a world that no longer recognises the Divine side of marriage, it is about the fact that your marriage can be great.

Discussion:

- I- Let’s begin by looking at Jesus commentary on the Genesis record (Matt 19:6) Read.
 - A- Woman is taken out of the man but in marriage she is joined to him as His wife and helpmeet.
 - B- Through marriage God joined them and does not want them to separate. Jesus is emphatic about what God has joined and man must not separate.
 - 1- Gods view on marriage can be stated as; “one man for one woman for life.”
 - 2- Divorce is a violation of Gods will because it severs the unity of Gods creative act.
 - C- Marriage is not a human invention. In fact it is integrally tied up in Gods divine will for the happiness of man. . Notice it is what GOD has joined together. This goes back to the example of Adam and Eve. They are the pattern. The words used in Genesis 2:24 state, *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* When two are married, like Adam and Eve were married, then God joins them together and no man can undo what the creator has done.
- II- In our society today man has moved the ancient land mark. (Prov 23)
 - A- See how far the land mark has been moved. (Stats hot off the press: **PP**).
 - 1- In Australia 2007- 47,963 divorces granted (all states). Children affected by divorce 44,371 in 2007. Of females granted divorce in 2007, 62.3% were aged less than 45 years. The median age for males granted divorce in 2007 was 44.2 years, compared with 41.3 years for females. Median length of marriage to divorce was 12.5 years for divorces granted in 2007. (Source: ABS Report Divorces 2007 Catalogue number 3307.0.55.001).
 - 2- This is New Zealand. Family Court granted 8700 marriage dissolution orders in 2009, a rate of 10.2 per 1000 existing marriages – 21,100 marriages and 10,200 divorces. (Statistics New Zealand). There were 397 civil unions registered to New Zealand residents 2007. These comprised 319 same-sex unions (131 male and 188 female). (Stats Dept NZ Gov).

- B- What we find from all this is that marriage and the home is in a mess, yet it does not have to be this way.
- 1- What was God's original design for marriage? (Genesis 2:22-24), we find His original design for marriage and the home.
 - 2- *"Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman" for she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."*
 - 3- What a beautiful picture we see in Genesis. God designed the family to include a mother and a father. That was His original intention; however, look what happened to the first family. One brother, Cain, killed the other brother, Abel. Just as the original family was destroyed, or torn apart---
 - 4- ---Many families today are fractured, torn apart by divorce, i.e. putting asunder, and even Christian marriages have been influenced by the world. You don't have to be one of those fractured marriages or homes.

III- There are five building blocks for a great marriage.

A- Building Block One: Courtship.

- 1- "More courting in marriage would mean fewer marriages in court."
- 2- When people continue to court, it is saying, "What can I do to please you?"
- 3- What advice could a father give? (Prov 5:19).
- 4- The father was saying, "Son, keep the fire of love and romance glowing." (Note: Song of Solomon).

B- Block Two, Communication.

- 1- God created us to be communicators, not mind readers. (Prov 13:17).
- 2- A typical mistake is to assume that our mates' needs are just like ours.

C- Block Three, Consideration.

- 1- (1 Peter 3: 7) says, Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
- 2- What is consideration? The Bible defines it in (Phil. 2: 3-5).
- 3- Notice these two verses about consideration. (Prov. 19: 22; James 3:17).

D- Block Four, Compromise.

- 1- One of the biggest myths is the myth of compatibility.
- 2- I have known many good marriages but few compatible marriages.
- 3- Do you know why we fight at home? (James 4: 17).
- 4- (Romans 14: 19) says, Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

E- Block Five, Compassion. Many marriages suffer from a cancer.

- 1- Resentment and bitterness can work as a cancer in a marriage.
- 2- (Galatians 5) Fruits of the Spirit.
- 3- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you. (Eph 4:32, 5).

Conclusion:

- 1- Your marriage can be great.
- 1- If it's to be it's up to me!