

Marriage? 2/10/2019 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last week we discussed Morality vs. Legality.
- We were able to see that just because something is legal, that doesn't mean it is moral.
- Our morality comes from God and what is taught in the Bible, not ever-changing laws created by man.
- This morning we are going to look at **Marriage?**
- **Definition:** Marriage – “the state of being united as spouses in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law. **Usage of Marriage:** The definition of the word marriage—or, more accurately, the understanding of what the institution of marriage properly consists of—continues to be highly controversial. This is not an issue to be resolved by dictionaries. Ultimately, the controversy involves cultural traditions, religious beliefs, legal rulings, and ideas about fairness and basic human rights. The principal point of dispute has to do with marriage between two people of the same sex, often referred to as same-sex marriage or gay marriage. Same-sex marriages are now recognized by law in a growing number of countries and were legally validated throughout the U.S. by the Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015. In many other parts of the world, marriage continues to be allowed only between men and women. The definition of marriage shown here is intentionally broad enough to encompass the different types of marriage that are currently recognized in varying cultures, places, religions, and systems of law.” (Merriam-Webster)
- The reason we are looking at Marriage this morning with a ? is precisely because of the problem above.
- **When did the government begin to certify marriages and require marriage licenses?**
 - It really was not until the mid-1800s that marriage licenses were widely used in Western society.
 - This started in England with the **Marriage Act 1836**.
 - In the US, marriage licenses depended on the states' laws and each state had different requirements.
 - That is still the case today, except for same-sex marriages since 2015.
- Bigamous, polygamous, interracial, and same-sex marriages have all at one time been outlawed.
- Bigamy is still outlawed in all 50 states but there is not federal law against it.
- Polygamy was outlawed federally with the **Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882**. It is also illegal in all 50 states
- Interracial marriage was legalized in 1967 and Same-sex marriage in 2015.
- So, what was the state of marriage prior to all this confusion? What did we all do before the 1800s?
- The simplest answer is that the government did not deal with marriage, it was a matter for the church.
- This is true of all religions and countries on the planet.
- So, with all of this confusion about what is legal and what is not legal and how marriage is actually defined, what does the Bible say?

Matthew 19:1-12

¹When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" ⁴"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' ⁵and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." ⁷"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" ⁸Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." ¹⁰The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." ¹¹Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹²For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

- This passage is titled in most Bibles, “Divorce or Teaching About Divorce.”
 - The reason for this is that was always the main point of confusion around marriage, not what marriage was, but how did you get out of it.
 - In the first century there were two Jewish scholars Hillel and Shammai who lead Jewish thought on divorce.
 - The House of Hillel allowed divorce in almost any circumstance.
 - The House of Shammai only allowed divorce in the case of adultery.
 - The Pharisees in this passage of Scripture were coming to Jesus as **v. 3** says, “to test him.” They wanted to see which school of thought he would subscribe to.
 - **Vv.4-6** – In these verses Jesus took them back to what the Scriptures says.
 - **Genesis 1:27**, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
 - **Genesis 2:24**, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”
 - Jesus clearly reiterated what the Old Testament taught about the definition of marriage itself. It was between one man and one woman who left their families to live together and who consummated their marriage.
 - A good biblical definition of marriage is this: Marriage is a binding covenant created by God between one man and one woman for our holiness, for our joy, as a picture of the gospel to spread the glory of God.
 - Jesus ended these two verses by saying, “Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.”
 - He was clearly stating that it is God who joins couples in marriage and that man should have no right to separate them.
 - **V. 7** – The Pharisees sought to push Jesus further and they asked him “When then...did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”
 - **V.8** – Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.”
 - Jesus was dispelling a common misconception that people had, Moses didn’t command anything, he permitted it.
 - The command never changed.
 - **V. 9** – Jesus here restates the command so that everyone is perfectly clear that divorce according to God is only right when adultery has taken place.
 - **Vv. 10-12** – The disciples then get into a conversation with Jesus about whether or not it was proper to marry and Jesus basically tells them that it is up to the individual, however if these verses apply, then they apply.
-
- The whole conversation in our world today is absolutely exhausting and confusing.
 - We are attempting to open up the definition of marriage to mean whatever we want it to mean.
 - Our homes are the basic building blocks of society and once those building blocks crumble, so does society.
 - We must stand on what the Word of God says, and not what man says.
 - Marriage is a beautiful and holy gift that God has given us and if you truly follow God’s will for marriage, you will find that it was always meant to be a precursor to our relationship with him.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Romans 8:31-36