

The Bulletproof Marriage: Week 1 4.14.24

Jesus said, "...In the original creation, God made male and female to be together. Because of this, a man leaves father and mother, and in marriage he becomes one flesh with a woman—no longer two individuals, but forming a new unity. Because God created this organic union of the two sexes, no one should desecrate his art by cutting them apart." Mark 10:6-9 MSG

But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Mark 10:6-9 NLT

What if I'm not married?

These principles are basically Godly recipes for healthy relationships, so this series will be helpful whether you're married or not. Plus, we, as believers, are always on mission and may have the opportunity to interact with someone who needs some Godly advice about marriage.

Singleness is, like marriage, a gift from God. The single person who is complete in Jesus is just as whole as someone who has a great marriage.

Divorce has happened to many of us. Perhaps we've remarried. Does that impair God's ability to bless my marriage? Of course not! We repent, asking God to help us make this one, or the next one if I'm still single but would like to remarry, a lifetime relationship. Then, like any other thing we've put under His blood, we move forward in His grace.

What does the Bible say about marriage?

- It's important to make sure our 'worldview' is in sync with the Creator of the World's worldview.
*Note the statement in **Acts 17:6** about the disciples "turning the world upside down". The Word restores the original 'worldview' established by God at creation. The world, and our culture, thinks that's upside down because we've accepted the wrong worldview as 'normal'.*
- Jesus reaffirms the relevance and validity of Scripture by quoting this passage from the Old Testament. This passage was around 1000 years old at that time. Is it out of date, or no longer relevant? Does it need to be updated or adjusted to

better fit the current culture norms? Jesus, our Lord, doesn't think so. He shows us the Word can always be used to find the answers to our life questions.

- Marriage is God's creation. It's one of the Holy institutions He ordained. Governments can adopt their own versions and definitions, but there's only this Biblical definition. The Biblical marriage is the one God has decreed His blessing upon. We need all the help we can get to have great marriages, so having one that is "Bless-able" is a good place to start.
- The Biblical Blessings of Marriage:
 - Companionship: (*the myth of a soulmate*). Equal, but different.
 - Lifetime Vision. Designed to last a lifetime, two companions on a journey, an adventure, with God. Pursuing His plan together.
 - Godly "Seed": ***Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly seed from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:15***
Children (*God chose Abraham to make covenant with because he would teach his children about God*).
But not just children, God wants our marriages to present the Gospel to the world around us. ***Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32***
 - A place of innocence, openness, and joy. ***"the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."*** ***Genesis 2:25***
A culture of honor, love and respect.
The Bible's view on sexuality is rather straight forward. Basically, the Bible says that sex is beautiful and holy within Biblical boundaries; and typically self-serving and even disrespectful outside of those boundaries.
 - A place of power. When husbands and wives honor God with their marriage, their prayers become "unhindered". ***1 Peter 3:7***

Next week...

Keys to a Bulletproof Marriage