

As Christ is to the Church

"... As Also Christ Is Head Of The Church..."
- Efesios 5:22-33

Paul speaks of a *"great mystery:"* What is it? The New Testament reveals this mystery to us, that marriage between a man and a woman is a perfect reflection of Christ and His church. Paul says, *"But I speak concerning Christ and the church"* (Ephesians 5:32). That is, Christ and His church are the model to follow in every marriage since the beginning of the Creation of man and woman. The union between Christ and His *"bride,"* the church, is very special. The Christian home is to be a picture of Christ's relationship with His church. This means that the standard is high for the Christian husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church. The pattern to follow is found in Ephesians 5:22-33:

First, the church is subject to Christ. Paul says, *"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.... Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything"* (5:22,24).

Second, Christ is the head of His church. *"For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"* (5:23).

Third, the church belongs to Christ, it is His body. *"And He is the Savior of the body"* (5:23).

Fourth, Christ loved and gave His life for her. *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her..."* (5:25).

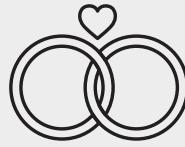
Fifth, the church was presented without blemish. *"... a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"* (5:27).

Sixth, Christ cares for and sustains it. *"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church"* (5:29).

Seventh, Christ loves; the church respects. *"Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband"* (5:33).

By teaching that marriage is analogous to the spiritual union between Christ and the church, the Lord Jesus, and Paul, both confirm that the Genesis account of Creation is historically true and accurate.

- J.L. Maldonado
August 2025



Traditional Vows

"I Take Thee To Be My Lawfully Wedded Husband / Wife"

Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and his wife before God. Both choose to live together and commit to their God-given duties

"To Have And To Hold From This Day Forward"

A solemn promise of union and companionship

"For Better, For Worse"

A pledge to stay united through good and bad times

"For Richer, For Poorer, In Sickness And In Health"

There needs be an unconditional commitment to stand by each other in life's highs and lows. Both choose to live together and abide by their God-given duties. This is a pledge to stay united through good and bad times, equally.

"To Love And To Cherish"

Love is an essential ingredient in marriage. To cherish is to express to each other how wonderful it is to share this life with each other, and no one else!

"Until Death Do Us Part"

The promise is permanent. The pledge to stay together is lifelong. The vow should be unbroken!

¡Best Wishes!

¡May God Bless Your Marriage!

Jesus' View of Marriage

IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT
MARRIAGE TAUGHT
BY JESUS

MATTHEW 5:31,32
MATTHEW 19:3-9
MARK 10:2-12



067-E JESUS' VIEW OF MARRIAGE

The Question:

"Is It Lawful For A Man To Divorce His Wife For Just Any Reason?" - Matthew 19:3

On his final journey to Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus teaches some Pharisees about the sanctity of marriage (Matthew 19:1-9). Their intention was not to learn but to test him. They thought they could trip him up with this question: *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause"* (19:3)? They hoped to trap him in some incorrect interpretation of the law. Of course, he didn't fall into their trap but instead quotes God's words spoken from the beginning of Creation (Genesis 1:27). Divorce is not lawful for just any cause.

Biblical marriage occurs when a man and woman make an agreement with God to be husband and wife and confirm this agreement or covenant in a family ceremony or wedding feast (Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14).

It is a blessing

"...Male And Female He Created Them. Then God Blessed Them..." - Genesis 1:27, 28

Everything created by God has been good, and each Creative act has been a blessing for humanity. From the creation of light on the first day, Genesis says, *"And God saw that the light was good"* (1:4). When He formed the Earth and the seas, He says, *"And God saw that it was good"* (1:10). On the third day, when He created seed-yielding grass and fruit-yielding trees, He says, *"And God saw that it was good"* (1:12). On the fourth day, after creating lights, the sun, stars, etc., He says, *"And God saw that it was good"* (1:18). On the fifth day, when He created marine life, He says, *"And God saw that it was good"* (1:21). He also created animal life and says, *"And God saw that it was good"* (1:25).

But on day six, God created man and woman in His image, *"And God blessed them.... And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good"* (1:28-31). God saw that it was not good for man to be alone and gave him a woman as a companion, a *"helper suitable"* (2:18-24). To be alone is the only "not good" thing in these two chapters.

In Genesis 2:18-24, God instituted marriage, the union between a man and a woman, a true blessing, one "very good" blessing!

It is of Divine Origin

"... He Who Made Them At The Beginning Made Them Male And Female?" - Matthew 19:4

Only God "unites" in marriage. He instituted marriage *"at the beginning."* Marriage is an institution that is not human, civil, or an ecclesiastical one. Only God has the authority to "unite" in marriage. The civil government and the church certainly do not have this authority.

In our society, these entities do "marry" or "unite" in marriage. This, however, does not make it "lawful" in God's eyes. As an example, the government "marries" adulterers, homosexuals, and lesbians with disregard to Divine authority. In so doing, the government frequently commits sinful acts that are an abomination in God's eyes (Romans 1:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). The civil government is also guilty of granting divorces for any reason. God never authorized government to marry or divorce anyone.

Of course, the government is also a Divinely formed institution and has been given its unique function. Its function is not to legislate, regulate, or have control in matters of marriage. God set this rule in the beginning and is to continue forever. That said, it is advisable to obey the laws of the land. Just as births are registered, it is lawful and beneficial to register the marriage.

It is between M / W

"... He Who Made Them At The Beginning Made Them Male And Female?" - Matthew 19:4

Marriage has been defined by God as the union between a man and a woman. The union between man and man; woman and woman, multiple partners (polygamy) are contrary to the teachings of the Lord Jesus and are an abomination.

Marriage has been designed by God from the beginning. God created them *"male and female"* (Matthew 19:4). *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"* (Matthew 19:5). The Lord quotes from Genesis what God has said, an implication, among other things, that Scripture is from God, holy, and Divinely inspired.

It's For Life

"Therefore What God Has Joined Together, Let Not Man Separate" - Matthew 19:6-9

Marriage has been decreed by God and does not want separation or divorce. From the beginning, God always intended marriage to be a permanent bond between a man and a woman, since the joining is done by Him. The Lord says, *"What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate"* (Matthew 19:6; Ephesians 5:31; Romans 7:2).

Matthew 19:7, *"They said to him, Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?"* The reference is to Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Under the Mosaic law, divorce was permitted (not mandated) and easily obtained. Divorce destroys the marriage union by separating what God has joined together. One of the things God hates is divorce.

In Matthew 19:8, *"He said to them, Because of the hardness of your hearts, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."* The offended man was under no obligation to demand a divorce. Of course, he could forgive such an offense. But his failure to do so was *"because of the hardness of his heart."* Divorce destroys this union and does nothing to benefit the children.

In 19:9, *"And I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries her who is divorced commits adultery."* The "innocent" can remarry, but the guilty one does not have this prerogative.

It's Not For Everyone

"All Cannot Accept This Saying...."
- Mateo 19:10-12

The disciples suggested that it was better not to marry so as not to jeopardize their marriage. With this, they at least acknowledged the purity of the marital union, according to the teaching of the Lord Jesus. Many are not prepared to accept His teaching and prefer to *"separate what God has joined together."*

Marriage isn't for everyone. There are those who can live a clean, single life, just as the Lord describes (11-12). Some of them, like John the Baptist and Paul, did so for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. They dedicated themselves to God and to God's family.