



Universal Laws: Marriage

In the beginning God created the Earth and established a natural order for all things. Mankind, created in the image of God, has failed to respect the natural order established by God and created problems that have severe social, political and spiritual consequences. Perhaps the most abused and ignored of these constraints is that of marriage. God stated that it was not good for man to be alone and thus created woman as a companion and helper (**Gen 2.18-25**). God commanded them to dress and keep the garden and to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the Earth (**Gen 1.28**). God did not intend for the earth to be left empty and gave the gift and ability to procreate to humans. This of course necessarily implies the presence of a sexual union as part of this first joining. After Adam and Eve sinned, God proclaimed his judgment against them clarifying the conditions under which they were to live. Those conditions included the need for Adam to support their living by working by the sweat of his face (**Gen 3.19**). They would also suffer physical death as a result of this sin as well. Eve was told that she was to be subject to her husband and to direct her desire toward him alone (**Gen 3.16**). These conditions, spoken long before the law was given to Moses, were not just for Adam and Eve but were stated for the family of man to provide stability, morality and the preservation of life and culture. Societies that have collapsed have shown that the sanctity of marriage is not respected. Divorce and fornication become commonplace giving rise to other things such as homosexuality, bestiality and other practices prohibited by God. We find that the institution of marriage is pervasive in all cultures and can be explained as one of the earliest conditions given to man by God. Christ indicated that this was the case when questioned about marriage and divorce. Asked if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife for “every cause” (**Matt 19.3**), Christ answered clearly. “*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*” (**Matt 19.9**). Christ further explained that it was because of the hardness of their hearts that Moses gave a “*writing of divorcement*” (**Matt 19.7**) but added that from the beginning this was not so with God (**Matt 19.8**). Studying the Law of Moses, putting away one’s wife was for “*uncleanness*” implying unfaithfulness had occurred or the woman was not a virgin when married (**Deut 24.1**). By the first century men had manipulated the

Law to the point that divorce and remarriage were common. Christ refuted this practice in his statements and even the disciples wondered who could live with this (**Matt 19.10-12**). A lack of respect for the sanctity of the home and pursuit of sexual gratification, leading to, and accompanied by other problems that are related, is the description of the world at the time of Noah (**Gen 6.1-5**). Disrespect for God’s conditions are commonplace in the nature of man. The pursuit of sexual pleasure without regard for the obligations and necessities that accompany it are the downfall of many societies as these activities affect other areas of social interaction personally and nationally. Wife swapping in some African nations, a clear violation of God’s conditions, led to the unprecedented spread of AIDS leaving millions of children without parents, another burden on already poverty stricken cultures. In the United States, the number of children born outside of a stable home leads to a number of problems as taxpayers shoulder the burden of supporting these children and their single parents. The children are also growing up in a structure that does not reflect the environment that God wants mankind to follow. Adults fail in their marriages at an ever increasing rate to the point that there are serious movements underway to wake people up to the fact that divorce is not a viable option in a relationship. One of the things that Christ taught in Matthew 19 is that while God does permit one to divorce for fornication, there is no implication that one has to do this. Forgiveness and identification of problem areas that need to be resolved are closer to what God has in mind than going from one partner to another. It is difficult to talk to a group these days in which a large percentage of individuals are either divorced and remarried, or, are married to someone else who has been divorced. None of this fits the way God intends for us to live. God states this in the writing of Malachi when the prophet records, “...*For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away...*” (**Mal 2.16**) speaking of the treacherous way in which men had dealt with their wives. God’s plan for the home is not just spiritual but has physical, emotional and societal ramifications. In short it works.