



Didn't God Think Of That First ?

Demographics for poverty over the years have consistently shown that one of the largest groups in such studies is single mothers. This is made up of divorced women who lack sufficient resources to care for their children, single women raising children without a father and others. Several years ago some states began to counter the growing tide of dependents seeking public assistance by introducing a type of marriage contract that placed a premium on a continual marital relationship and harsher consequences for divorce and separation. This is not a new idea but the revival of the concept was seen as a way of getting people to make more serious commitments to their marriages thus easing the strain on assistance efforts by the already overburdened taxpaying public. When we look at what God has to say about marriage we find that the idea began in the very beginning with God. Asked if a man could divorce for any reason, and marry another, Christ had a serious response to this. ***“Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Matt 19.4-6)***. Christ went on to state the only reason that a man could put away his wife was for infidelity and emphasized the dangers in that action **(Matt 19.9)**. Even the disciples concluded that if that was the case it was better not to marry **(Matt 19.10)**. The point that Christ made to these individuals was that it was the hardness of their hearts that brought this about **(Matt 19.8)**. Malachi stated, ***“For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away...” (Mal 2.16)***. This is not a new problem and it has signaled the demise of many great cultures as the home and family deteriorated, failing to teach necessary values to children who would later emulate what they had seen in their formative years. Marriage is a contract that God put into place and was one in which two people, a man and a

woman, would dedicate themselves to the care and nurture of one another over their lifespan. It is through the window of the parents that children will perceive God and the world. A failure in this area will teach chaos and disorder. Men, and women, enter into marriages with little or no forethought of what lies ahead. When problems arise some will run to another seeking the momentary pleasures of a relationship but may have a tendency to repeat the action if they do not find the satisfaction that they desire. Fidelity and commitment are hallmarks of how we serve God as well and the marriage relationship can teach us to be loving, forgiving, patient and persevering. These are traits that Christians need to develop as well in service to God. Like a marriage that does not meet all our personal wants and desires, religion is many times abandoned or exchanged for another in much the same manner. In the New Testament the church is figuratively referred to as the bride of Christ and the same commitment to God is needed in our roles as servants of the Lord. If we approach marriage, or Christianity, with the same attitude, we will probably be disappointed when things do not go as we would like. Marriage, and the commitment one makes to their partner will also teach us how God cares for us and the patience that he exercises when we do not act in ways that please him. Forgiveness and patience are things we expect from God and others, but, until we learn to practice these on a personal level we will not learn the lessons that God wants us to. Eventually some may find themselves alone, miserable and unable to cope with the upheavals of life. It is interesting how the Lord has fashioned life in such a way that we can come to appreciate just how loving and caring he can be. Marriage is a wonderful opportunity to see how God cares for and blesses us in ways that fulfill and give our lives hope and purpose.