

Marriage – The Greatest Human Contract!

By Mark N. Posey

The Home is the backbone of society. Marriage is the most basic and influential unit in the world. The importance of marriage must be emphasized because each year there are more than half as many divorces as marriages. Recent statistics caught my attention: 1 of 3 marriages end in divorce, 1 of 50 marriages (where the ceremony is in a church building) end in divorce, 1 of 1105 marriages (who follow the Bible) end in divorce. The biblical pattern for marriage **works!** Therefore, consider what the Bible has to say about a God ordered marriage.

The Nature of Marriage

First, marriage is between a biological male and female. Genesis 1:27 says that God created “male and female.” The homosexual lifestyle is a deadly force against godly marriages. Second, marriage involves sexual union. God called it the “one flesh” relationship. This relationship must be saved for marriage and kept within marriage. Premarital sex and extramarital affairs are violations of God’s law (Hebrews 13:4). Third, marriage involves a covenant before God. Malachi 2:14 says, “She is the wife of thy covenant.”

The Duration of Marriage

First, marriage is a lifelong commitment. The time-honored words of Jesus express God’s desire for longevity in the marriage relationship: “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:4). Second, marriage is not eternal. Notice Jesus’ words in Matthew 22:30, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

The Number of Parties in Marriage

Marriage is monogamous. It is for one man and woman for life. Notice Romans 7:2, “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth.” However, the Bible speaks against polygamy in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Monogamy was taught by precedent (God gave Adam only one wife; this set the precedent for the whole human race), precept (Deuteronomy 17:17, “neither shall he multiply wives for himself”), moral prescription against adultery (Exodus 20:17, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife”), population proportion (roughly equal numbers of males and females are born) and punishment (every polygamist in the Old Testament paid for his sin, e.g., Solomon, 1 Kings 11:4). The fact that God permitted polygamy no more proves He prescribed it than permitting divorce indicated He desired it.

The Blessings of Marriage

A husband that treats his wife well is a rich blessing to her (Ephesians 5:25). Women grace our world with beauty, tenderness, love and kindness. A loving wife is a rich

blessing (Ephesians 5:22). Good children are a rich blessing (Psalm 127:3-5). Godly children obey and honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).

In conclusion, the greatest human contract is when a man and a woman pledge their love for life. God is the witness to every marriage whether He is invited or not. 