

Moral Marriages in an Immoral World

Heb. 13:4

Introduction:

- A. The subject of marriage has become confused and complex in our modern world (Ill. Judges remark)
 - 1. Not that complex when viewed from a biblical perspective.
 - a. 2 lawful options – unmarried or married.
 - b. 2 kinds of marriages – Lawful (moral) and unlawful (immoral) (cf. Mk. 6:17)
 - c. 2 kinds of lawful marriages – wise and unwise (1 Cor. 7:28)
 - 2. Modern social pressures on traditional moral marriages.
 - a. Not new – problem with political leaders of 1st century (cf. Matt. 14:1-12; Mk 6:17)
 - b. Early church had to face the problem from within (1 Cor. 5)
 - c. Modern efforts to redefine marriage and streamline divorces.
- B. We want to look at the morality of marriage as taught in the Bible.

Discussion:

I. The Bible Teaching on the Meaning of Marriage.

- A. A covenant between a man and woman before God (Mal. 2:14)
 - 1. A covenant must be confirmed (legally ratified) (Gal. 3:15-17)
 - 2. Between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 7:2)
- B. A covenant of one man and one woman for life (Rom. 7:2,3).
 - 1. No man has the right to nullify that covenant (Matt. 19:6).
 - 2. God has made only one exception to this rule (Matt. 19:9)

II. The Bible Teaching on Alternatives to Marriage.

- A. Only one moral alternative – celibacy.
 - 1. For one who chooses not to marry.
 - a. Thinks it is best for him/her.
 - b. Thinks it best for his/her circumstances (1 Cor. 7:26, 37)
 - 2. For one has been divorced or has divorced for unscriptural reason (Matt. 5:32; 1 Cor. 7:10-15).
 - 3. Not to be forced on one who has a right to marry – invites immorality (1 Cor. 7:2,3; 1 Tim. 4:3)
- B. Other alternatives are immoral – fornication (sexual immorality)
 - 1. Homosexual activity.
 - a. Seeking and receiving social acceptance.
 - b. Condemned in both Testaments (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - c. Wrong whether licensed as “marriage” or not.
 - d. If one has such temptations must not yield (cf. Jas. 1:14-15; 1 Cor. 10:13).
 - 2. Heterosexual activity. (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - a. Premarital or extramarital
 - b. “Living together”, “making love” equals fornication – lost!
 - c. Married without having divorces previous spouse for fornication.

Conclusion:

- A. Each must decide what is best for him/her – celibacy or a moral marriage.
- B. Each must keep him/herself from fornication of any kind (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Cor. 6:18)