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Christian Marriage

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Statement made by Jesus in A. D. 33 reaffirmed God's oldest law given to human race: marriage! Unity. This truth is as binding on the man of earth as the day Adam spoke it in Genesis 2:23, 24.

Compare the worlds:
4000 B. C. (?) One man, one woman, one home.
World: 1969. 3.5 billion population. 6 bil. by 2,000
UNITED STATES:
Pop. May 1969—201,333,000. 59 mil. families.
Average size: 1965 3.31%. 1969 down to 2.7%
11,000,000 American families bought or buying homes
MARRIAGES:
1966 1,857,000 (57,000 more than in '65)
1967 1,913,000 (56,000 more than in '66)
1968 2,059,000 (116,000 more than 1967)


For total pop. 70 yrs. 6 mos.

AVERAGE MEDIAN INCOME: $7,200 to 8,140 per family.

FACT: American families have more of the good things of life than any other country of the world!!!

EXPECTED CONCLUSION: American people, families, homes are happiest in world. Not so highest divorce rate.

TRUTH: American family is breaking down. Home is crumbling. Basic way of life seriously challenged.

WARNING: Edward Gibbons, English historian, listed the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire. List 3.
1. Decline in religion. Lost sense of values.
3. Breakdown of the Roman home and the high rise of Roman divorces.

PURPOSE OF THIS LESSON: Present a simple, clear and objective view of MARRIAGE as God ordained it.

GOAL: Foster happy marriages, which produce happy homes, which contain happy individuals. J. 10:10.
I. MARRIAGE IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION, not a human custom. 

A. Jesus said: "What therefore God hath joined together"


C. DEFINED: By F. W. Robertson.

"Marriage is not a union merely between two creatures; it is a union between two spirits."

The intention of that bond is to perfect the nature of both. They supplement each other's deficiencies with excellencies which they lack. To the one, the strength of character and firmness of moral will. To the other: sympathy, meekness and tenderness. There is NO earthly relationship with so much power to ennoble and exalt. (Dict. of Thts. p. 391.)

D. James A Garfield, 20th President of U. S.:

"The sanctity of marriage and the family-relation make the corner-stone of our American society and civilization." [Gleue that holds nations together.]

E. EDMUND BURKE: "The Christian religion, by confining marriage to pairs, and rendering the relation indissoluble, has by these two things done more toward the peace, happiness and settlement and civilization of the world, than by any other part in this world-scheme of divine wisdom." (Mead, Enc. of Rel. Q. 296)

F. David T. Kauffman: "A good marriage is not a contract between 2 persons/ but 3! Too often, Christ is omitted from the ceremony and finds no place in the home. Why? It is because we have misrepresented Him, and forgotten His joyous outlook on life." (Mead, 296)

G. SOME ANON. SAGE: "Marriages are made in heaven, but the maintenance work is left to man on earth."

H. ACCORDING to a recent Gallup Poll in Los Angeles Times our maintenance work is slipping.

1. 1 of 4 women asked would pick another partner if could start over. Only 1 in 10 husbands felt this.
2. Only 58% of American husbands met wives expectation Some 81% of men said wives met their expectations.
3. Men also much more satisfied with wives outward appearance than wives were of husband's.

I. HEADLINE: The Odd Couple? Doctor thinks happily marrieds are it!
Dr. George Macer, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at U. of So. Calif. School of Medicine to annual meeting of California Medical Assn.

"Lately, it seems that more marriages are unhappy and in jeopardy than ever before. The HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLE SEEMS TO BE AN ODDITY."

(Prayer: Lord give us more and better odd-couples!"

J. **FIRST MARRIAGE** performed in a beautiful garden.

God "tied the knot." In the cathedral of vast universe.

Roof: Galaxies of millions of stars and the milky-way.

Floral arrangements, the perfection of all the fruit and vegetable kingdoms.

Audience: The gentle creatures of the forest; birds, squirrels, rabbits, deer, fox, lions, horse, the elephant, the and the dove.

Purpose: Weld hearts, minds, bodies and souls together.

K. **MARRIAGE TODAY**: Blending two lives and personalities into one complete being.

Externals: License, building, music, ceremony, the rice throwing and the reception designed to IMPRESS upon youth the Divinity, Dignity, the Sacredness and Sanctity of God's first divine institution—**Marriage!!**

II. **MARRIAGE IS THE UNION OF TWO INTO ONE.**

A. Jesus said: "they two shall be one flesh." 19:6.

B. Words "I" and "My" must be changed to "Your" and "Our". Takes genuine maturity. America is short!!

ILL. Dr. Joyce Brother's article, DALLAS NEWS.

How identify? Fly off handle, lose tempers.

Men, bully and shout at their families.

Women, scream at husbands and their children.

Average American man's emotional age: 19 yrs.

Average American woman's emot. age: 16½.

C. AMOS 3:3. Agreed?

1. Strongly recommends longer courtships, engagements and non-romantic conditioning for marriage.

2. Future harmony increased with present points of mutual interest and compatibility—Socially, Educationally, Religiously and Economically.

D. Any who cannot or will not pass the test of Phil. 2:3.

just should not marry. Not work, nor be happy.*

III. **MARRIAGE IS THE SUPREME HUMAN RELATIONSHIP.**


B. Relation to mate stronger than to parents.

C. Only one relationship stronger! Matt. 10:34-39.*

E. God legislates a Christian's second marriage to insure the unity previously enjoyed. I Cor. 7:39.

F. God strongly advises unity in the first. II C. 6:14-16

IV. MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME CONTRACT. I9'6.

A. Jesus said: "beginning...leave...cleave...one...joined...no man put asunder." No provision for division.

Eliminates: Free-love, trial marriages, loose marriage, pre-marital-sex and easy divorces.

B. Wedding vow: "till death do us part." Mean?? death!!

C. Problem Same as Hosea 4:6. Destroyed....glory to shai

TO-DAY

Close by calling your attention to two great truths.

1. Christ loved the Church as a Bride and paid the supreme sacrifice for it. Eph. 5:25. Rom. 5:8. He invites you to be a part of His Church!


5 virgins ready when the Bridegroom came. v. 10.