

Marriage, Home and Family

August 9, 2015

There are 5 primary NT passages that instruct us as spouses

1. I Corinthians 7.1-16
2. Ephesians 5.19-33
3. Colossians 3.18-19
4. Titus 2.4-5
5. I Peter 3.1-7

When you enter “Christian Marriage”
into the Amazon.com search line

1. 1-12 of 35,079 results for Books : "Christian marriage"
2. There are 42 pages of authors of books on "Christian marriage."
3. Which makes me wonder, "What has God not said, that I need?"
4. The answer is "nothing."
5. But we do need to get our bearings

Americans marry out of “love”

1. By which we really mean “attraction”
2. The American concept of “love” rarely follows the Biblical model of love
 - A. John 3.16
 - B. I John 3.16
3. So if the attraction ends, Americans pretty quickly end the marriage.
4. There is no Biblical defense of divorce
5. There are only a few situations in which it doesn't bring God's judgment—that's hardly an endorsement

Americans tend to evaluate their marriages on the basis of their own happiness and sense of fulfillment

1. Whereas God focuses more on the commitment to the covenant

A. Malachi 2.14

2. And on the marriage as a reflection of the Church

A. Ephesians 5

Marriage for love was virtually unknown in the Biblical world

1. People married for social or economic “position”
2. Or out of political considerations
3. Or for the purpose of having children
4. Or simply to have legal protection: unmarried women had fewer rights than wives did in many cultures
5. Which certainly is going to color the way Ephesians 5.25 is read

The Bible never envisions a world in which love comes first—this is not the Biblical model

1. God made Eve for Adam.
2. Then there's a bunch of marriages, but we don't know the "selection process"
3. Then Sarai gave Abram Hagar: Genesis 16.3
4. Ishmael's mom picked his wife: Genesis 21.21
5. Abraham's servant picked a wife for Isaac: Genesis 24

6. Jacob. Well, what can we say there? Genesis 29-30
7. Jacob gave his daughter to Shechem. Sort of. Genesis 34
8. Judah picked a wife for his son Er. Genesis 38
9. Pharaoh gave Joseph a wife. Genesis 41
10. Moses' father married his aunt. Ex. 6.20
11. Under the Law, you could pick a wife from the war captives, if she appealed to you. Deut. 21
12. If a married couple have no children, and the husband dies, his brother is to marry the widow. Deut. 25.5

13. Caleb offered his daughter to a military victor. Joshua 15.16
14. Then there is the whole debacle of the wives for the Benjamites. Judges 21
15. Boaz married the woman who pursued him: Ruth
16. Saul gave David his daughter as a wife. I Samuel 18.17-27
17. David got a wife by murdering her husband. II Samuel 11
18. Widows can marry any saved man. I Cor. 7.39

The point is

1. How you get a spouse is not nearly as important as
2. How you treat the spouse you have