

THE GREATEST INSTITUTION OF MANKIND

Matthew 19:4-6; Genesis 2:18

Introduction: God has given many great institutions to mankind - laws, government, nations, the Church, worship, baptism, the Lord's Supper, but before all these God gave the greatest institution of all - Marriage. Marriage didn't start in some cave-man ceremony. God is the source of all life. God created Adam and Eve and they needed each other. Each was incomplete without the other and each complimented the other. What Adam (man) lost when God made Eve (woman), it was found in her.

I. MARRIAGE IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION

1. *Matthew 19:4*
2. Man is to follow God's instructions, not man's whims or tradition.
3. The right man and the right woman fall in love and God intends for them to remain married all their human lives.

II. MARRIAGE IS THE GREATEST OF ALL EARTHLY INVOLVEMENTS

1. *Matthew 19:5*
2. A man and woman are to leave their parents (purse and apron strings)
3. A marriage is greater than parent/children relationships.
4. a marriage is greater than a job/business.

III. MARRIAGE IS AN UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

1. Each makes a promise of faithfulness to the other.
2. Each makes a promise to care for the other, regardless whether it is in good or bad times.
3. Each makes a promise to share everything, all in their life together.

IV. MARRIAGE MAKES TWO IN GOD'S SIGHT, ONE

1. Two are joined together physically to become one.
2. Two become one socially by taking only one name.
3. Two become one biologically by having children.
4. Two become one spiritually, as Jesus is with His Church.
- One family but with different roles.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are many forms and ceremonies surrounding marriage, but none make a marriage nor guarantee it's lasting.
2. IF a man and a woman love each other, IF they obey God's instructions for their home, THEN will their marriage be a little heaven on earth.
3. IF NOT, then Satan will tear it apart.