

Family Matters

1: The Permanence of Marriage

The State of the Family Today

- Over 1 Million divorces every year in the US
- Nearly 6.5 million couples living together outside of marriage, over 12 times the number 35 years ago
- One in four children live with only one parent – a number that has doubled in the past 35 years
- 40% of all US children are currently born to an unmarried mother

Sources: [SOOU 2008, AP]

Genesis 2:18-25 NKJV

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

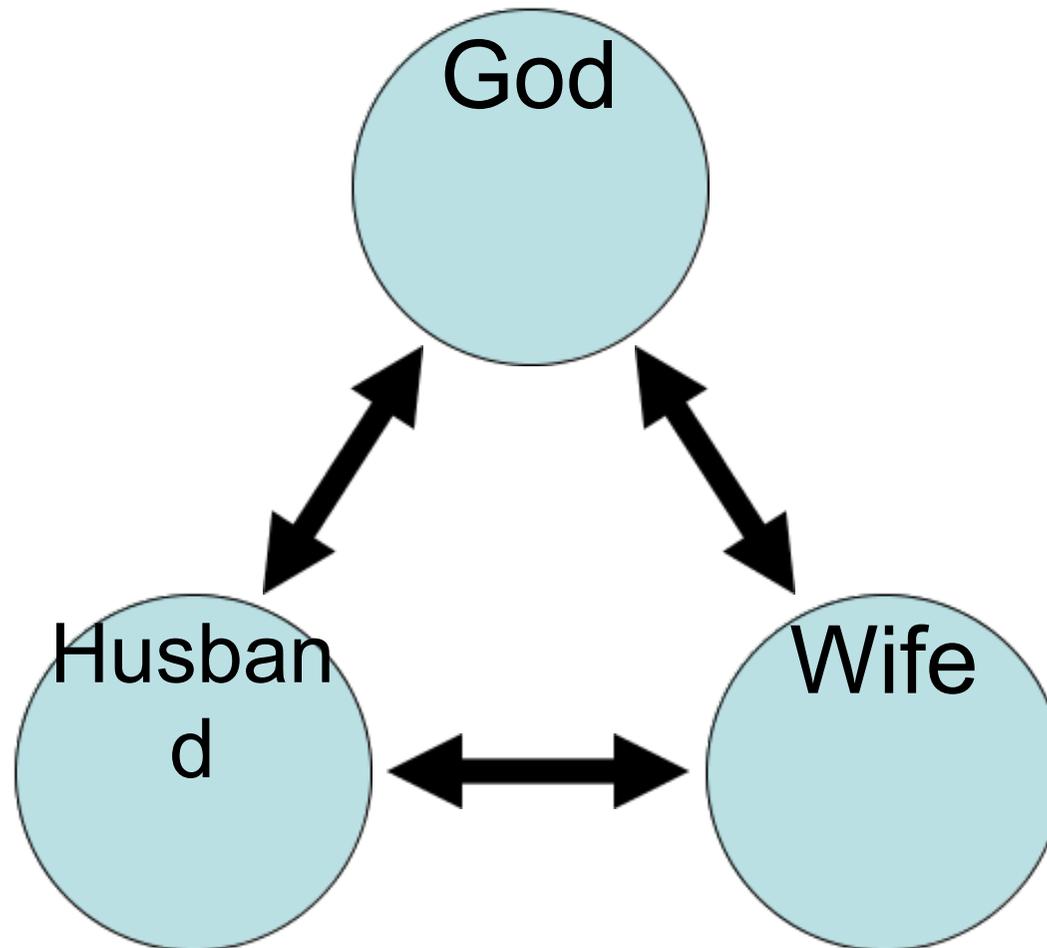
Genesis 2:18-25 NKJV

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

In The Beginning

- The source of marriage - God
- The components of marriage –
 - One Man
 - One Woman
 - A vow, covenant or contract before God
- The purpose of marriage
- The permanence of marriage

Components of Marriage



The Decline of Marriage

- Sin and its consequences – Gen. 3:15-17
 - Polygamy and concubinage – Abraham & Jacob (Gen. 16, 29-30)
 - Divorce – Abraham (Gen. 21)
 - Promiscuity – Dinah, Reuben, Judah, & Joseph (Gen. 34, 35, 38, 39)
 - And these were the people of God! Imagine what the rest of humanity was doing!

The Decline of Marriage

- The Law of Moses
 - Added because of transgressions (Gal. 3:19)
 - Constraints on Marriage
 - Constraints on Divorce
 - Constraints on Polygamy and Promiscuity

The Decline of Marriage

- How Serious is God about this?
 - Adultery was a capital crime – Lev. 20:10

Leviticus 20:10 NKJV

'The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

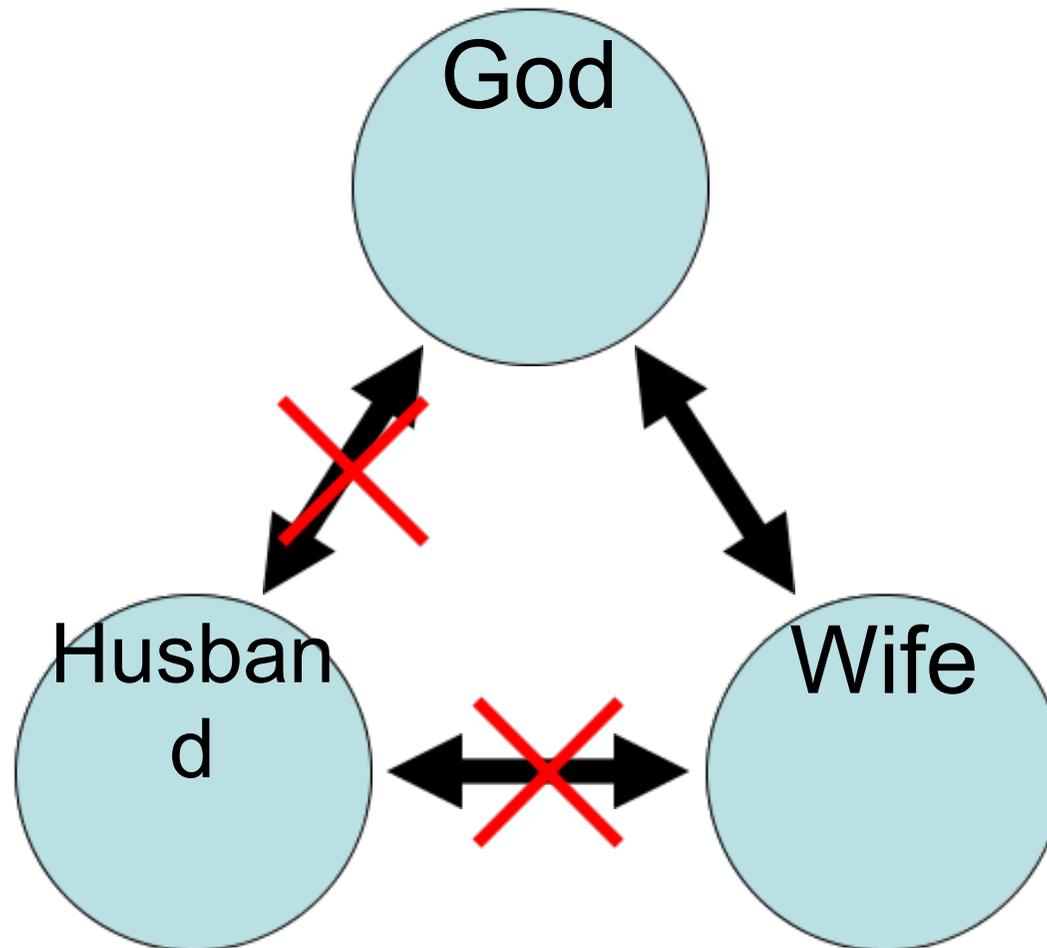
The Decline of Marriage

- How Serious is God about this?
 - Adultery was a capital crime – Lev. 20:10
 - Divorce is betrayal – Malachi 2:13-17

Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV

And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

Components of Marriage



Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV

15 But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 **"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence,"** says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

The Decline of Marriage

- How Serious is God about this?
 - Adultery was a capital crime – Lev. 20:10
 - Divorce is betrayal – Malachi 2:13-17
 - Unlawful marriages must be ended - Ez. 9-10

The Restoration of Marriage in Christ's Law

- Christ's Law (Matt. 19:1-9; Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:10-13)
 - Restores God's original plan for marriage

Matthew 19:3-9 NKJV

The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" 4 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' 5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH' ? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:3-9 NKJV

7 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Romans 7:2-3 NKJV

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

1 Corinthians 7:10-13 NKJV

Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him.

The Restoration of Marriage in Christ's Law

- Christ's Law (Matt. 19:1-9; Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:10-13)
 - Restores God's original plan for marriage
 - Male and Female
 - No divorce
 - One exception
 - Violation results in adultery

How Serious is it?

- Those who commit adultery:
 - Forfeit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - Forfeit fellowship with the people of God (1 Cor. 5:11)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 5:11 NKJV

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner -- not even to eat with such a person.

How Serious is it?

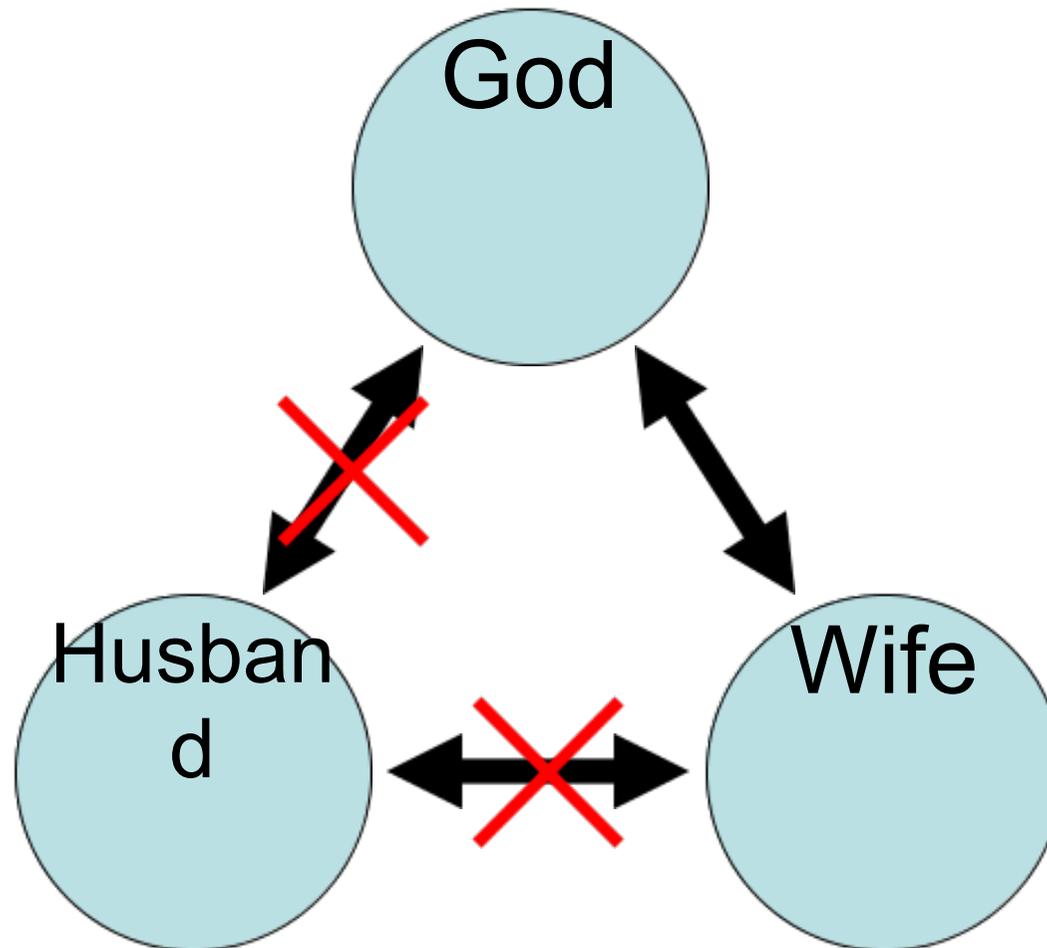
- Those who commit adultery:
 - Forfeit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - Forfeit fellowship with the people of God (1 Cor. 5:11)
- Those who divorce (Mal. 2:13-16)
 - Do what God hates
 - Cover their garments with violence

Malachi 2:13-16 NKJV

15 But did He not make them one...? And why one? He seeks godly offspring.

"Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 **"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Components of Marriage



The Violence of Divorce

- A single or divorced woman is 50% more likely to die from any cause than a married woman [TCFM]
- A couple's divorce reduces the lifespan of their children by an average of 4 years [TCFM]
- Swedish children being raised by single or divorced parents are “twice as likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders, diseases, suicide attempts, alcoholism, and drug abuse” [CR]
- In the US, children of divorce are more than twice as likely to have serious social, emotional, or psychological problems as children of intact families—25% versus 10% [AMPB]
- Children whose parents live apart are twice as likely to drop out of high school as those in two-parent families, and twice as likely to become single parents themselves. [GUWSP]
- In Britain, a study found that 70% of young offenders come from lone-parent families, and children who had grown up in lone-parent or broken families were between 3 – 6 times more likely to have suffered abuse. [CR]

Reducing Divorce

Percent Decrease

Factors in Risk of Divorce

Annual income over \$50,000 (vs. under \$25,000)-30

**Having a baby seven months or more after marriage
(vs. before marriage).....-24**

Marrying over 25 years of age (vs. under 18)-24

Religious affiliation (vs. none)-14

Own family of origin intact (vs. divorced parents)-14

Some college (vs. high-school dropout)-13

Source: [SOOU 2007]

Sources

- [GUWSP] - Sara McLanahan and G. Sandefur, Growing up with a Single Parent, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994)
- [AMPB] – Mary Parke, Are Married Parents Really Better for Children?, 2003.
- [SOOU 2007] – David Popenoe, Ph.D., and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Ph. D., The State of Our Unions 2007, 2007.
- [SOOU 2008] – David Popenoe, Ph.D., and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Ph. D., The State of Our Unions 2008, 2007.
- [CR] – David Popenoe, Cohabitation, Marriage and Child Wellbeing – A Cross-National Perspective, 2008.
- [TCFM] – Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher, The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better off Financially, , 2000.
- [AP] - Mike Stobbe, US births break record; 40 pct out-of-wedlock, AP Report, Wed Mar 18, 2009.

Family Matters

- 1. The Permanence of Marriage**
2. The Husband's Role in Marriage
3. The Wife's Role in Marriage
4. The Blessed and Blessing Home
5. The God-Centered Home
6. The Parent-Led Home
7. The Child-Raising Home
8. The Overflowing Home

God's way is the
best way!