

Marriage: As God Defines It

(lecture by Steve Gregg)

I. The purpose of marriage

A. To Glorify God (1 Cor.10:31)

1. Fruitfulness glorifies God (John 15:8/Gen.1:27-28)
2. Stewardship of the Divine Mystery (Eph.5:31-32)

B. To inherit the grace of life together (1 Pet.3:7)

1. The joy of intimacy (1 Cor.7:2, 9/ Prov.5:18-19)
2. The receiving and stewarding of offspring (Ps.127:3-5/Mal.2:15/Matt.18:5)

II. The nature of marriage

A. Covenantal (Mal.2:14)

B. Sovereign (Gen.2:24/Matt.19:5)

C. Possessive (mutual ownership) (1 Cor.7:3-4/Prov.6:32-35)

D. Ideally permanent and monogamous (Matt.19:6-8/1 Tim.3:2)

1. Safe for intimacy
2. Safe for children

III. Qualifications for good marriage

- A. “For adults only”*** *Grow-up before getting married, preferably.*
- B. If you don’t know how to die to yourself, your own will, your dreams, then you are not going to be successful as a Christian, whether single or married. But you’ll be miserable in marriage.***
- C. If you know how to be happy unmarried, you can be happy in marriage.***
- D. If you know how to be content unmarried, you can be content in marriage.***

IV. The work of marriage

A. The husband’s assignment

1. To love his wife
 - a. consideration (1 Pet.3:7)
 - b. self-sacrifice (Eph.5:25)
2. To manage his household
 - a. protection (John 10:11-12)
 - b. provision (Prov.19:14/2 Cor.12:14/1 Tim.5:8)
 - c. leadership (John 10:2-5)

B. The wife’s assignment

1. To reverence and submit to her husband as unto Christ (Eph.5:22, 33/Prov.12:4)
2. To love her husband and her children (Titus 2:4)
3. To maintain a pleasant home environment (1 Tim.5:14/Prov.14:1/ 21:9,19)
4. To show hospitality (1 Tim.5:10)

C. The work of child rearing (Prov.19:18/22:6/22:15/23:13/29:15)

1. Primarily the responsibility of the father (1 Sam.3:13/Prov.3:12/ 4:1/ Eph.6:4), though mother is in this, as in other respects, his helper (Gen.2:18).
2. Delegation of duties to others (Gal.4:1-2)
 - a. Does not allow the surrender of father’s responsibility
 - b. Extends additional responsibility to caregiver
3. Childhood education
 - a. spiritual/character formation (Deut.6:6-7/ Prov.29:17/ Matt.18:6/ 19:14)
 - b. vocational training (John 5:19-20)
 - c. academic education—the American Idol (Matt.11:2)

“In marriage do thou be wise: prefer the person before money, virtue before beauty, the mind before the body; then thou hast a wife, a friend, a companion, a second self.” —William Penn

“When people get married because they think it’s a long-time love affair, they’ll be divorced very soon, because all love affairs end in disappointment. But marriage is a recognition of a spiritual identity.” —Joseph Campbell

“Marriage is an adventure, like going to war.” —G.K. Chesterton

“Three trends in particular affect your perception of marriage every day. First, fewer couples overall are married, and almost everyone’s circle of friends and relatives includes a greater mix of single, cohabiting, married, and divorced people.2 Second, religion, traditionally a major support for marriage, is fading in importance to Americans.3 And the third anti-marriage trend comes directly through our laptops, where Facebook and other social media offer the community, titillation, and entertainment we used to rely on spouses to provide and share.” —Diane Medved

“Many people spend more time in planning the wedding than they do in planning the marriage.”
—Zig Ziglar

“I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman.”
—Arnold Schwarzenegger

“As to marriage or celibacy, let a man take which course he will, he will be sure to repent.”
—Socrates

“By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.” —Socrates

“Marriage is like putting your hand into a bag of snakes in the hope of pulling out an eel.”
—Leonardo da Vinci

“Marriage is a wonderful institution, but who wants to live in an institution?”
—Groucho Marx

“Marriage is like a game of chess except the board is flowing water, the pieces are made of smoke and no move you make will have any effect on the outcome.” —Jerry Seinfeld

“Marriage is an alliance entered into by a man who can't sleep with the window shut, and a woman who can't sleep with the window open.”
—George Bernard Shaw

“I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she's having her own way. And second, let her have it.”
—Lyndon B. Johnson

“Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.” —Henny Youngman

“When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.” —Prince Philip

“If you want to know how your girl will treat you after marriage, just listen to her talking to her little brother.”
—Sam Levenson

“We sleep in separate rooms, we have dinner apart, we take separate vacations - we're doing everything we can to keep our marriage together.”
—Rodney Dangerfield

“All men make mistakes, but married men find out about them sooner.”
—Red Skelton

“The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret.”
—Henny Youngman

