

# Marriage

Marriage is the institution created by God for man and woman to live together. Simply, it is the legal, physical and moral union of a man and woman, for life. This was created by God in the beginning at creation. Genesis 2:18

*And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

God set up this relationship for the benefit of both the man and the woman. It created a special life-long relationship that:

1. Gave company for both for life.
2. Created a stable environment for raising children.
3. Set up a physical and spiritual bond.

This relationship is bound by the law of God to last for life. It is a bond, which once joined, is unable to be broken except by the death of one of the two. Romans 7:2

*For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*

A marriage these days is still under the same God given law which cannot be put aside by any man made law. God's law always over rides a human law. Acts 5:29

*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

A marriage is formed when a man and woman take their marriage vows. This usually takes place in the presence of human witnesses, but it is always witnessed by God who sees and hears all. Irrespective of the words used, a marriage vow is regarded by God as a binding contract for life. He requires all vows to be kept. Eccles. 5:4-5

*When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.*

It is also a requirement that the partners should trust and respect each other. 1 Cor. 7:3

*Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.*

Jesus reinforced the rules for marriage a number of times. He made the following points:

- A married couple are married for life.
- A married couple should live their lives together.
- Human law cannot separate them.

Matthew 19:4-6

*And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

The Bible forbids intimate relationships outside marriage. Romans 7:3

*So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.*

Adultery in our age may no longer be a criminal offence by man's law, but it is still against the law of God.

From the passages quoted, it is clear that God's principle of marriage is not being adhered to by modern society. Our society has put aside the commitment for life, ignored God's law on vows and changed God's law of marriage of a man and woman. No where in the Bible is marriage spoken of except as between a man and a woman. From Genesis to the end there is always the woman and the man.

Finally, love is to be part of the marriage. Ephes. 5:33:

*Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*