

## **EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – Aug, 2022**

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### **WHAT IS MARRIAGE?**

#### **Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)**

**4** Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

The whole world has gone CRAZY! The world has a “head” problem because it has a spiritual heart problem. It has a twisted thinking problem born out of rebellion to the Creator! Depraved thinking opposes what is right and natural simply because it seeks to defy God. In the language of Scripture, **“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools”**, and again, **“having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart”** (Rom. 1:22; Eph. 4:18). Perverted thinking involves even the most basic of issues related to gender realities which are grounded in nature itself. Thus the world walks “in the futility of their mind” (Eph. 4:17). Rebellious perversion defines the world (Isa. 5:20-21).

When it comes to marriage the world wants to define it on its own terms. But God owns marriage! Marriage was God’s idea and true marriage as ordained by God is according to His terms. In discussing the issue of marriage Jesus went back to the very beginning and reiterated what God instituted at the start of creation as spelled out in Genesis 1-2.

1. Marriage is a one-flesh union of male and female. Genesis 1:26 says, “male and female He created them.” Genesis 2:24 says the man shall “be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” This portrays the sexual union of a male and female. Marriage is sexual! It is more than that, but it involves a sexual union of a man and a woman.
2. Marriage is a covenant relationship. Just having sex with someone does not a marriage make. By itself that is simply being immoral. Being married involves a covenant commitment. In Malachi 2:14 God says to the men, **“Yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant.”** The world thinks in terms of “contract” relationships and essentially sees marriage in this light as well. But the Bible speaks of marriage in terms of a covenant. The idea of COVENANT brings God into the equation and recognizes accountability to God for the commitment that is made (cf. Jer. 34:18). This makes it a sacred commitment before God.
3. Marriage complies with the laws of the land as it aligns with Scripture. God has ordained human government and where human government sanctions and regulates marriage in keeping with what is biblical, God’s people submit to these laws recognizing human government as a God-ordained authority (cf. Rom. 13:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13).
4. Marriage is a GOD-THING! Jesus said, **“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”** (Mt. 19:6). A covenant marriage as ordained by God between a man and a woman is a God-thing. They are supernaturally joined together by God. God is the One who ultimately presides over the wedding. It is His doing.

Marriage involves a sexual covenant between a man a woman. All other sexual relationships are illicit, immoral, and condemned by God. Paul is clear that those who practice immorality will not inherit the kingdom (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Revelation 21:8 indicates that the sexually immoral will have their eternal destiny in the lake of fire. God-ordained marriage is honorable but sexual perversion is condemned by God.

**Thot:** GOD ALONE is the VOICE OF AUTHORITY on marriage!

***Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald***