

Certificate of Marriage



This Certifies that

**Shepherding Series
The Bible and Marriage
Week 2**

ated by

and

Name of Person Solemnizing



The Bible and Marriage

Last week:

- Marriage in our culture
- Marriage in our congregation
- Marriage in the Bible



This ceremony

and

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Marriage: The Bible versus Culture

What we saw last week:

The Bible:

- “What God has joined together let no man separate”
- The Creator made them male and female
- Because he was seeking godly offspring

Our culture:

- Almost 50% divorce rate
- Gay marriage
- For selfish gratification

Marriage in Our Congregation

From last week's class:
Marriage problems we have seen

- Not fulfilling biblical roles
- Selfishness
- Deceit
- Materialism
- Financial irresponsibility

- Hurtful language
- Broken trust
- Infidelity
- Lack of forgiveness
- Separations and divorces

The Bible and Marriage

Marriage principles from the Sermon on the Mount

- Blessed are the peacemakers
- Settle matters quickly
- If you do not forgive, your Father will not forgive you
- Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- Do to others what you would have them do to you

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

This week:

- To marry? Or not?
- Marriage and divorce
- Whom to marry?

Changing Attitudes toward Marriage

How many adults in America are married?

- 2008: 52%
- 1960: 72%

- Pew Research Center, 2010

Changing Attitudes toward Marriage

Survey: Do you consider marriage obsolete?

- 1978: **28%** said “Yes”
- 2010: **39%** said “Yes”
- Pew Research Center, 2010.

Changing Attitudes toward Marriage

The share of births to unmarried women

5% in 1960

41% in 2008.

- Pew Research Center, 2010.

Cultural Attitudes toward Marriage

44% of all adults (and more than half of all adults ages 30 to 49) say they have cohabited at some point in their lives.

- Pew Research Center, 2010.

Marriage: Culture vs Bible

Eph 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

Eph 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Eph 4:19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

Eph 4:20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.

We must be different!

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

To marry? Or not?

1Co 7:1 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

1Co 7:2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

To marry? Or not?

1Co 7:8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.

1Co 7:9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Jesus taught the same thing!

Mat 19:10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry."

Mat 19:11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given."

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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Mat 19:11 Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given."

Mat 19:12b The one who can accept this should accept it."

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Advantages to remaining single

1Co 7:32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.

1Co 7:33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,

1Co 7:34 and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Advantages to remaining single

- Fewer anxieties
- Focus on things of the Lord



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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Divorce?

1Co 7:10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband

1Co 7:11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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1Co 7:11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

God hates divorce!

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Unbelieving spouse

1Co 7:12 To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her.

1Co 7:13 If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Unbelieving spouse

1Co 7:15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is **not enslaved**. God has called you to peace.

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Unbelieving spouse

1Co 7:15 But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is **not enslaved**. God has called you to peace.

NIV “not bound”

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Widows remarrying

1Co 7:39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.



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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

Widows remarrying

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He must belong to the Lord

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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Does this apply to widows only?

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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Let's take a closer look

What God Told Israel About Marriage

Exo 34:12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst.



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What God Told Israel About Marriage

Exo 34:12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst.

Exo 34:15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice,

Exo 34:16 and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

What God Told Israel About Marriage

Deu 7:3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,

Deu 7:4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

What God Told Israel About Marriage

Jos 23:11 Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.

Jos 23:12 For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and **make marriages with them**, so that you associate with them and they with you,

Jos 23:13 **know for certain** that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the LORD your God has given you.

What God Told Israel About Marriage

1Ki 11:1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,

1Ki 11:2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "**You shall not enter into marriage with them**, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

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1Ki 11:4 For when Solomon was old **his wives turned away his heart after other gods**, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

2Co 6:15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

2Co 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

2Co 6:17 Therefore go out from their midst, and **be separate from them**, says the Lord, and **touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,**

2Co 6:18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."



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The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

“Unequally yoked”

- What was Paul talking about?
- He explains himself in the next verses.
- A series of rhetorical questions with obvious answers

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The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? *Obviously, none.*

Or what fellowship has light with darkness? *None*

What accord has Christ with Belial? *None*

Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
None

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? *None*

There is something fundamentally incompatible between a believer and an unbeliever.

The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

“Unequally yoked” - not just about marriage.

- But certainly includes marriage
- Any other close relationship (dating for example)
- There is something seriously wrong if you feel closer to non-Christian friends than to your brothers and sisters in Christ!

The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

What does God say for us to do?

- Go out from their midst,
- Be separate from them
- Touch no unclean thing

Then I will welcome you.



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The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

What does God say for us to do?

- Go out from their midst,
- Be separate from them
- Touch no unclean thing

Then I will welcome you.

That doesn't mean you can't share your faith with them!

The Apostle Paul: Do Not Be Unequally Yoked

So what does it mean?

- Make sure your closest relationships are with Christians.
 - Marriage
 - Dating
 - Best friends
- Be careful who your kids hang out with.
- Guard your heart!
 - You are not wiser than Solomon



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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.



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1Co 7:20 Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.

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1Co 7:24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

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1Co 7:24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

Three times!

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him.
This is my rule in all the churches.

- This is what Paul taught in all the churches
- Not anything special for Corinth

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:21 Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned about it. (**But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.**)



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Paul gives slavery as an illustration

- Not wrong to change the situation if given opportunity
- But not the focus of your life

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

1Co 7:28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.

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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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So also in the case of marriage:

- Not wrong to change the situation if given opportunity
- But not the focus of your life

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

1Co 7:30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,

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What is the focus of your life?

The Apostle Paul on Marriage

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1Co 7:33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,

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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:35 I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.



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The Apostle Paul on Marriage

1Co 7:35 I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your **undivided devotion to the Lord.**

Mat 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Mat 22:38 This is the great and first commandment.

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1Co 7:40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Living as Single Christians

“**Encourage** one another”

G3870

παρακαλέ ω

parakaleō

par-ak-al-eh'-o

From [G3844](#) and [G2564](#); to *call near*, that is, *invite*, *invoke* (by *imploration*, *hortation* or *consolation*)

Not exactly “put courage in..”
More like urging to stay faithful!

Living as Single Christians

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to call to one's side, call for, summon
- 2) to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.
 - 2a) to admonish, exhort
 - 2b) to beg, entreat, beseech
 - 2b1) to strive to appease by entreaty
 - 2c) to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort
 - 2c1) to receive consolation, be comforted
 - 2d) to encourage, strengthen
 - 2e) exhorting and comforting and encouraging
 - 2f) to instruct, teach

Living as Single Christians

Heb 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But **exhort** [*NIV* “encourage”] one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



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What does he mean by “encouraging one another?”

Living as Single Christians

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Urging to stay faithful!

Living as Single Christians

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works,**

Heb 10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



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What does he mean by “encouraging one another?”

Stir up one another to love and good works!

Living as Single Christians

1Ti 5:1 Do not rebuke an older man but **encourage** [NIV “*exhort*”] him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,

1Ti 5:2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, **in all purity.**



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Mat 18:7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!"

Living as Single Christians

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Mat 18:7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!"

Brothers and sisters, keep it pure!

Living as Single Christians

Brothers, be considerate of your sisters

- Encourage them in the spiritual sense
- Absolute purity

Sisters, be considerate of your brothers

- Encourage them in the spiritual sense
- Absolute purity

The Bible and Marriage Conclusions

1Co 7:29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

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This world is not my home!

The Bible and Marriage Conclusions

- We live in a fallen world
- Don't accept the values of our culture!
- Commit yourself to following the Bible
- Get help, early and often

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The Bible and Marriage Conclusions

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- Commit yourself to following the Bible
- Get help, early and often

Remember, Jesus is Lord!



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