

Course -2/ Lecture#2
**Three Perspectives: Traditional,
Modern and Biblical Marriage**

Instructor
Leslie Verghese, MSW, LCSW

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The Origin of Marriage

- According to anthropologists, there is no society wherein marriage does not exist in some format (Montague, p. 240). The institution is, therefore, a universal phenomenon.
- Hence there are but two logical possibilities.
 - Marriage either is of supernatural origin
 - or it had a naturalistic beginning.

Creationistic Judeo Christian view

- Marriage is the first institution on earth
- Family, Society, Educational Institutions and all else followed later
- Hence Marriage is the 'foundational' institution
- God Himself Designed and Instituted it

Three Types

- Traditional
- Modern
- Biblical

TRADITIONAL VIEW (Arranged)

Parental Choice
(Contract between 2
families)



Mostly an Eastern view

- Husband - breadwinner
- Wife - Homemaker
- Well defined roles
- Specific responsibilities
- Norms formed by society
- Family is the focus
- Interference from in-laws causes friction
- High stigma towards divorce
- Highly secretive about frictions

MODERN VIEW

Personal Choice

Contract between two individuals

Marriage = Companionship

- ❖ Often Labeled as a Western view
- ❖ Divorce by mutual consent
- ❖ Career Oriented Spouses
- ❖ Equality of spouses
- ❖ Interchangeable Roles



- Most common form of contemporary marriage
- Reflects the social changes of the last three decades
- Individual Freedom is maintained even after marriage
 - **Leads to arguments/fights**
- Open expression of love
 - Love = mostly 'Eros'
- Abuse is reported openly
 - High separation rate
 - High divorce rate

Common Areas in Three Models

- Marriage as an institution
- Formal wedding
- Two persons of opposite sex
- Interpersonal and intimate relationships
- Marriage is compulsory or recommended before any sexual relationship
- Focus on children and family unit

Reasons for marriage

- Traditional
 - Family obligations, establish family unit, public declaration of commitment, legal obligation, defined by customs and traditions and religion
- Modern
 - Legal, social, libidinal, emotional
 - defined by law and culture
- Christian
 - Companionship, spiritual, church tradition
 - Defined by the Word of God

Marriage Practices in Various Groups

- Monogamy: one husband and more wife
- Polygamy: a husband have more than one wife
- Polyandry: a wife have more than one husband
- Group marriage: neither polygamy or polyandry

Marriage Ceremony

- A marriage is usually formalized at a wedding or marriage ceremony.
- The ceremony may be officiated either by a religious official, by a government official or by a state approved celebrant.
- In many European and some Latin American countries, any religious ceremony must be held separately from the required civil ceremony.

Marriage law

Marriage laws

- refer to the legal requirements which determine the validity of a marriage, which vary considerably between countries.

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA):

- explicitly defines marriage for the purposes of federal law as between a man and a woman and allows states to ignore same-sex marriages from other states
- Thirty-five US states currently define marriage as between a man and a woman. Thirty states have defined marriage in their constitutions.

Marriage restrictions

- Marriage is an institution that is historically filled with restrictions.
- From age, to race, to social status, to consanguinity, to gender, restrictions are placed on marriage by society for reasons of benefiting the children, passing on healthy genes, maintaining cultural values
- Banned marriages between upper and lower castes in India
- Banned marriages between blacks and native Americans in USA

Hindu and Chinese Marriages

■ Hinduism

- marriage as a sacred duty that entails both religious and social obligations; Sati, child marriage
- The Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act 1856 empowers a Hindu widow to remarry.
- Gandharva Vivaha: instant marriage by mutual consent of participants only, without any need for even a single third person as witness to normal marriages
- Rakshasa Vivaha: "demoniac" marriage, performed by abduction of one participant by the other participant, usually, but not always, with the help of other persons.

■ China:

- The New Marriage Law of 1950 radically changed Chinese marriage traditions, enforcing monogamy, equality of men and women, and choice in marriage; arranged marriages were the most common type of marriage in China until then.

Ancient Israel

- Specific commandments about marriage
- Wife (*virtuous*) was expected to perform certain household tasks or the duties
- Adulterous married women/betrothed women were subject to the death penalty by the biblical laws against adultery.
- Husband as the breadwinner

Early Christian marriage

- Bishop Ignatius of Antioch writing to bishop Polycarp of Smyrna exhorts, "It becomes both men and women who marry, to form their union with the approval of the bishop, that their marriage may be according to God, and not after their own lust."
- In the 12th century women were obligated to take the name of their husbands and starting in the second half of the 16th century parental consent along with the church's consent was required for marriage.

Roman Catholic View

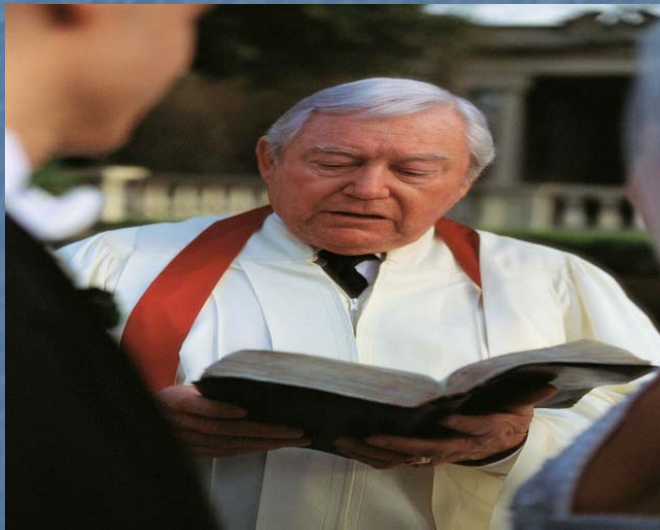
- Marriage as a sacrament ordained by God, signifying the mystical marriage of Christ to his Church
- The Council of Trent decreed that a marriage would be recognized only if the marriage ceremony was officiated by a priest with two witnesses.
- The conjugal union of man and woman, contracted between two qualified persons, which obliges them to live together throughout life.

Protestant View

- Intimate companionship, rearing children and mutual support for both husband and wife to fulfill their life callings.
- Consider marital sexual pleasure to be a gift of God.
- Deny the elevation of marriage to the status of a sacrament
- As a covenant between spouses before God (Eph 5:31–33)
- Martin Luther saw it as a social "estate of the earthly kingdom... subject to the prince, not the Pope."
- John Calvin "marriage was a covenant of grace " that required the coercive power of the state to preserve its integrity.
- Civil marriages have been recognized as a legal alternative to church marriages under the Marriage Act 1836 (England)

Biblical View

(God's Choice)



- **Judeo-Christian view**
- **God-centered**
- **Covenant relationship**
 - **Life giving (Procreation)**
 - **Love giving (Companionship)**
- **Less divorce rate**
- **Purpose driven...**

- **For**

- Companionship (Gen 2:18)
- Procreation (Gen1:28)
- Sexual Fulfillment (Gen 1:28)

- **And**

- Because God Instituted it
- To keep a Moral Equilibrium
- Because 'apostles upheld it'
- Early Church practiced it'
- List goes on and on and on

Biblical vs. Secular

- **World:** God is not involved in the welfare of man and certainly not in marriages and families.

- **God's Perspective**
- God is so thoroughly involved in marriage that whenever anything different than He has suggested or taught is done, disaster is on its way.

God vs. World

World:

- **Independent spirit** – If you restrain yourself from exercising your independence always, it brings about harm and abuse of self.

God's Perspective:

- True freedom is when we live for the purpose God created us.
- A good marriage is when a man and woman fulfill their duties and live 'rightly' under the proper restraints.

Biblical vs. Secular

- **World's Materialistic View:**

Man and woman are two interacting molecules. Marriage is merely a human phase of life where two physical bodies touch each other more than others.

- **God's Perspective:** Marriage is the interconnectedness of a man and woman in a life long, relationship,
- in which they share a physical, emotional and spiritual platform.

Biblical vs. Secular

- **World - Feminism:** Women are equal with men in all ways and even better than them in some. Being a 'submissive wife' is an inferior and abused state which women have accepted for far too long.

- **God's Perspective:**
- Women are precious creatures designed for God's purpose just as men are. They find fulfillment in being a helpmate to the husband that God will choose, prepare and present. Women fulfill a role that no other creation including another man can fulfill and will find her supreme purpose in focusing on God's purpose for her.

Biblical Design of Marriage: Partnership, Contract, or Covenant?

- Marriage is
 - A Heterosexual
 - Covenant
 - Between **ONE** man and **ONE** woman
 - Consummated in **SEXUAL** Union
 - For **Companionship** and **Procreation**
 - Sealed by a **Public Ceremony**
 - For a **LIFELONG** relationship

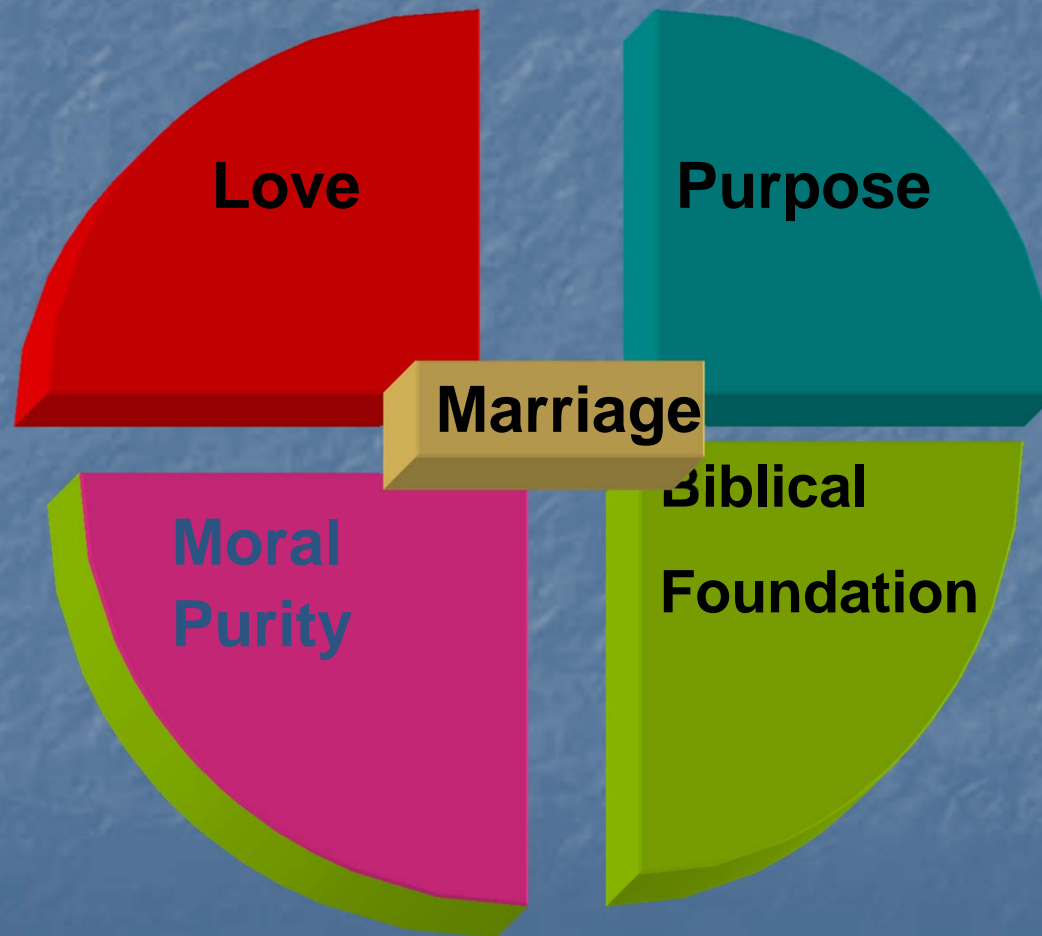


Why did God Design Marriage?

Gary Thomas States

- God created marriage as a loyal partnership between one man and one woman.
- Marriage is the firmest foundation for building a family.
- God designed sexual expression to help married couples build intimacy.
- Marriage mirrors God's covenant relationship with His people.

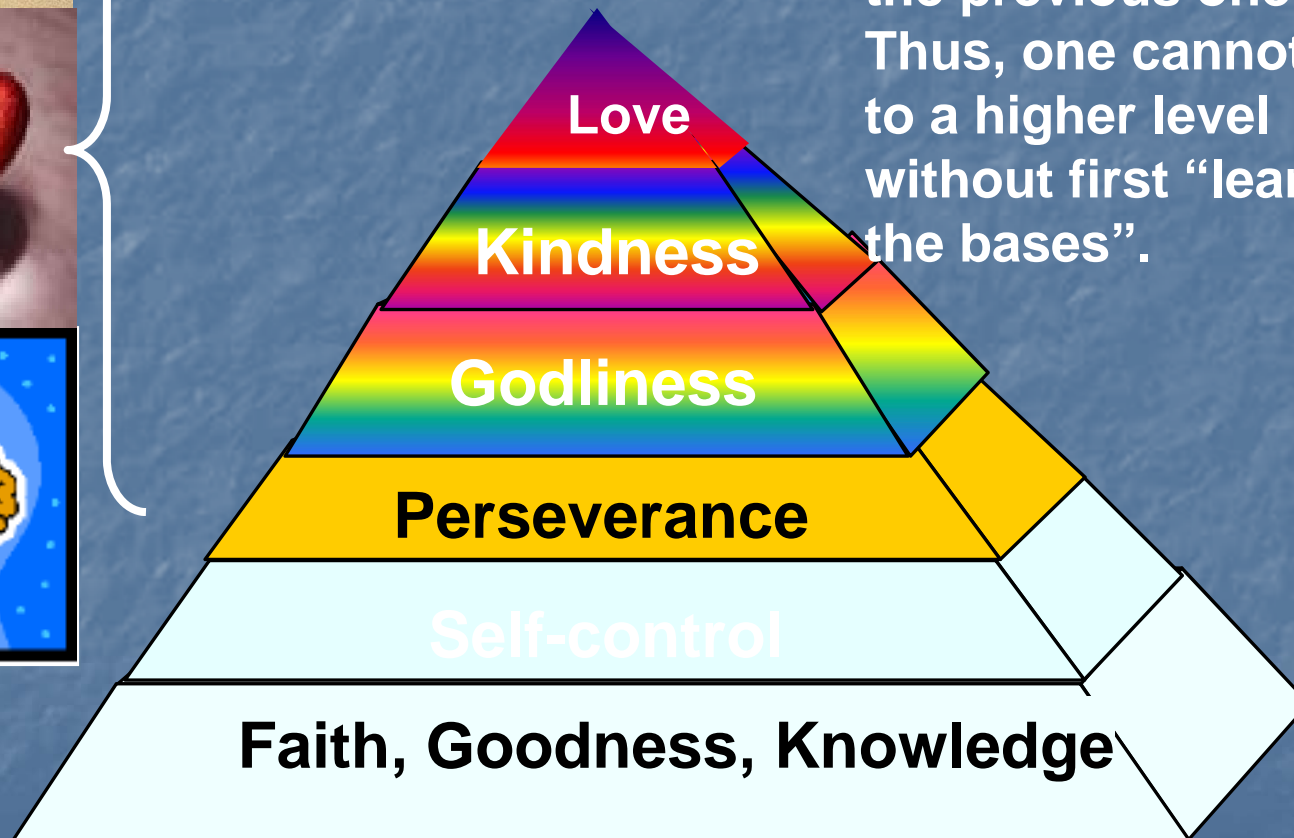
Christian Marriage Circle Quartet





Biblical View of Marriage (2 Peter 1:5) Happy Marriage = True Love + Spiritual Thinking

Each level builds on the previous one. Thus, one cannot move to a higher level without first “learning the bases”.



Before Getting Married

1. Decision making - Discern God's choice.
2. Understand the Commitment - Covenant relationship not Contract
3. Preparation – Be Mentally Ready
4. Understand The Plan - Build a Christ centered home.
5. Know that it is a Team work – Two Bodies but One Heart and Mind.
6. The Long Term Goal - Become a part of the Kingdom building Process

Is there Anyone that One Should NOT marry?

- Someone who is closely related (Lev 18: 6-18)
- Someone who is already married (Deut 22:22)
- Someone who is engaged to be married (Deut 22:23)
- Someone who is an unbeliever (2 Cor 6:14-18)
- Someone who is divorced for a non-biblical reason






Direction



Purity



Relation-----**Ship**

Lasting Marriage – God's Way

ABC'S FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE:

- **A**TTITUDE before and during marriage
- **B**UILD the foundation on God's word
- **C**OMMITMENT to God and His Word

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

- Leave
- Cleave
- Become one

Structure of a Biblical Marriage

- Each partner accepts the biblical role of his/her sex
- Both partners understand the need for good health
- Both partners understand that they are companions
- Satisfactory opportunity to develop each other
- Full and constructive use of quality family time
- Servitude to each other but more to the Lord

Marriage God's Way

- Higher levels of overall commitment to the spouse in all aspects.
- Communicating openly.
- Less frequent Negative Interaction
 - The biggest discriminator between couples who were satisfied and those who were not, was negative interaction
- Possess Christ like character and attitude
 - Husband loves unconditionally – Jesus gave his life.
 - Wife submits to husband – As church submits to Christ

The hallmark of both actions is LOVE

Successful Marriage

- Express love clearly and often.
- Listen carefully to what the spouse has to say.
- Spend time with the spouse engaging in activities *he/she* likes.
- Be supportive of what interests him/her.
- Be courteous and respectful to the spouse and his/her friends.
- Help the spouse build self-esteem by facilitating mastering of some skills; self-esteem is earned, not given.
- Have meals together – Dining tables can be the best place for open communication

9 Tips to Implement God's Design of Marriage

- 1) Follow God's Direction
- 2) Maintain Purity at all costs
- 3) Understand the importance of Covenant relationship
- 4) Be committed to each other at all times
- 5) Focus on building up a generation for the Kingdom of God
- 6) Follow Biblical principles on sex – **Not** permitted outside of marriage.
- 7) **NO** cohabitation, divorce, homosexuality, unwed childbearing, abortion, extramarital relationship, abuse or any other form of domestic violence
- 8) Always be a Christ centered family – salt & light to the world
- 9) Pray together

Discern the Phases of Marriage

- Infatuation – Everything is bright and sunny
- Post Rapture – Soon after infatuation, the plane will land somewhere. This is where realities of life set in
- Discovery – The post rapture stage leads you to a discovery stage where the actual meaning of saying 'I love you' is revealed through actions. How 'safe' am I is gauged really well at this stage
- Connection – Once the intimacy and security is cultivated, honor marks the connection stage.

In Other Words

- **Romance** – Total acceptance of each other, positive feelings only
- **Reality** – Glow subsides; Enable each other to see the mate's faults
- **Resignation and Reconstruction** – Either resign from marriage or reconstruct the relationship

God's Design for Marriage

- Confirm beliefs to God's truths
- Make Him the center of the relationship
- Find God's best in every trial
- Serve each other
- Communicate with Love



4 Marriage Killers

- **Withdrawal** – ‘end of discussion’
- **Escalation** – ‘communication = debates/fights’
- **Belittling** – ‘that’s the dumbest thing’
- **False Beliefs** – ‘she is telling them everything I say to her’

IT'S A DECISION
(Discerning God's spouse)

It's a Commitment

It's a Preparation

- Seek God First
- Start Praying
- Keep Your Eyes Open
 - God speaks through different means

Getting Married

IT'S A DECISION

Discerning God's spouse

- God knew Adam needed a mate (need & timing)
- He prepared her
- He presented her to him
- He set the parameters of their relationship

Getting Married True Love Waits

IT'S A COMMITMENT

- **Waiting on God for the right mate is crucial to living a godly and good life.**
- **The godly person must wait upon God for the spouse God has identified.**

Getting Married - IT'S A PREPARATION

- Prepare the heart
 - Sacrifice
 - Role Change
 - Compromise
 - Acceptance
 - Leave, Cleave, Join
- Build a biblical foundation

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Agape Partners International
P.O. Box 550141
Waltham, MA 02452
- Phone: **781-330-0569** | **516-855-8093**
Email: counsel@agapepartners.org
Web: www.agapepartners.org
- Technical Support: support@agapepartners.org
- **717-546-4144**

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