

For the Sake of the Kingdom of Heaven
Singleness and marriage series Part 2
Matthew 19:1-12

5/26/13

Matthew 19:1 And it came about that when Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee, and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;
² and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.
³ And *some* Pharisees came to Him, testing Him, and saying, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any cause at all?"
⁴ And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female,
⁵ and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh '?"
⁶ "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
⁷ They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send *her* away?"
⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.
⁹ "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Biblical Marriage

How to enjoy the fullness and joy of oneness: Live God's design

A Biblical Marriage Purpose Statement

1. Oneness in companionship

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

¹⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.

²² And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

2. Oneness in mutual enjoyment and meeting each other's needs

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

² But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

³ Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

⁵ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

3. Oneness in worship and spiritual growth

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

²⁶ that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

4. Oneness in ministry and outreach

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body.

³¹ For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

5. Oneness in raising godly children

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Biblical Singleness

Matthew 19:10 The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

¹¹ But He said to them, "Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.

¹² "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs **for the sake of the kingdom of heaven**. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*."

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman.

² But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

...⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn.

...²⁶ I think then that this is good in view of the present distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

²⁸ But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

...³² But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord;
³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,
³⁴ and *his interests* are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.
³⁵ And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.
...³⁹ A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.
⁴⁰ But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

Biblical Courtship

1. Make sure you're ready to marry

2. Court only a Christian

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

¹⁷ "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you."

¹⁸ "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

3. Court only a Christian you'd marry (Example lists for ladies: Proverbs; Ephesians 5; 1 and 2 Timothy; for men: Proverbs 31; 1 Peter 3)

4. Watch, pray and seek council

5. Ask her parent's permission to court

6. Set intimacy boundaries

1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

¹³ Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.

¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!

¹⁶ Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body *with her*? For He says, "The two will become one flesh."

¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 10:8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

Galatians 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

⁴ and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

⁶ For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come,

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

⁴ that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

⁵ not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

⁶ *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.

⁷ For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

⁸ Consequently, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Hebrews 13:4 *Let marriage be held* in honor among all, and let the *marriage* bed *be* undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

7. Do only what you want your future wife to do

8. Do only what you want done to your future wife and your daughter

The lady you're courting is someone's future wife

The lady you're courting is someone's daughter

9. Do only what grows future trust in your marriage.

If the one you're courting becomes your future wife you are now teaching her about your character, sexual convictions and how much she can trust you.

10. Treat her as God's daughter. The lady you're courting is God's daughter.

1 Timothy 5:2 (*treat*) the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

11. Avoid seclusion

12. Stay accountable to some partners

13. Focus on friendship and ministry

14. Get to know each other's families

15. Honor each other and God. The key to courtship is worship and honor.