

# GRACE AND MARRIAGE

## HOW GRACE AFFECTS MARRIAGE

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

~Ephesians 5:31-32

### 1. Marriage in the Modern Church

- a. Marriage is doctrinal, but it is turned into a carnal battle: flesh, power, money.
- b. It is big business: books, seminars, counseling, radio – most is doctrinally vapid.
- c. "Relevant" churches make it the main attraction instead of sound doctrine
- d. Trendy churches proffer sex advice as the solution to keep the passion burning
- e. Academic types argue roles, divorce, submission, culture, God's gender and wife
- f. Political groups get their validation from the government and talking heads

### 2. How Modern Marriage Works

- a. By bureaucrat (not Bible) they tell you who you can and can't marry and how
- b. Rule 1 – It doesn't work – (Love as long as you can. When love stops, give up)
- c. Rule 2 – Stay as independent as possible (For when you need to leave)
- d. Rule 3 – Keep Score (Keep records for when you must consult the referee)
- e. Rule 4 – Bargain: tit for tat (Don't give without getting something in return)
- f. Rule 5 – Find areas of weakness and attack (Sun Tzu's Art of War is good here)
- g. Rule 6 – Try to achieve marriage control (Struggle for household domination)

### 3. Marriage Under the Biblical Law

- a. Advice specifically about marriage is hard to find in the Bible, start here Gen 2:24
- b. Marriage reflected the relationship God had with Israel – Jer 31:32, Isa 54:5
- c. The law said who you could and could not marry – Lev 21:7, Deut 7:3-4
- d. It was a contract, and so divorce was a recourse-Deut 24:1-4, Mat 5:27, 19:3-10
- e. It describes godly men and women - Proverbs 1:4, 12:4, & 31, but... Prov 21:12
- f. Marriage is a covenant that, if broken, has consequences – Mal 2:14-15

### 4. Grace and Marriage

- a. Every step away from Paul is a step back into childhood under a law system
- b. Paul speaks about how marriage works because of the mystery - Eph 5:22-33
- c. Marriage reflects our relationship with God in Christ as the church - Eph 5:31-32
- d. Husband has always been the head, but Christ has not always been – Eph 1:22
- e. Learning about marriage from mystery doctrines – 1 Cor 11:3
- f. One person operating out of obedience and reverence brings salvation Phil 2:6-8
- g. One person operating by love/grace can provide reconciliation – Rom 5:8
- h. Together you are one in Christ, by grace and not by the law – Eph 2:13-15
- i. It operates by love, grace, submission, without condition - not performance
- j. Grace gives what is not deserved and does the work freely – Rom 3:24, 8:32
- k. Grace crucifies the old man and reckons him dead – Gal 2:20, 5:24, Rom 6:11
- l. We think of the other better than ourselves, not selfish – Phil 2:2-4, 2:20-21
- m. You are not your own anymore, you are Christ's – 1 Cor 6:19-20, Eph 5:21