
CHAPTER 24: OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

1. *MARRIAGE is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband at the same time.*¹

1. Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5-6; Prov. 2:17.

Notes:

- Summary: Definition of Marriage
 - One man and one woman.

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2. *Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife;² for the increase of mankind with a legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed;³ and for preventing of uncleanness.*⁴

2. Gen. 2:18.

3. Mal. 2:15.

4. I Cor. 7:2, 9.

Notes:

- Summary: Purposes of Marriage
 - Help – mutual help of husband and wife
 - Holy Seed – increase of mankind and the church
 - Holiness – prevention of uncleanness

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3. *It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry who are able with judgment to give their consent;⁵ yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord.⁶ And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels or other idolaters; neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies.*⁷

5. Heb. 13:4; I Tim. 4:3; I Cor. 7:36-38; Gen. 24:57-58.

6. I Cor. 7:39.

7. Gen. 34:14; Exod. 34:16; Deut. 7:3-4; I Kings 11:4; Neh. 13:25-27; Mal. 2:11-12; II Cor. 6:14.

Notes:

- Summary: Christian Marriages
 - Marriage of Unbelievers
 - Lawful between consenting parties.
 - Marriage of Believers
 - Marry only in the Lord.
 - Not to marry unbelievers.
 - Not to marry professing believers that are notoriously wicked or heretics.

4. *Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the word;⁸ nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man, or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.^{9 v}*

8. Lev. 18:1-30; I Cor. 5:1; Amos 2:7.

9. Mark 6:18; Lev. 18:24-28.

Notes:

- Summary: Unlawful Marriages
 - Prohibition of incestuous marriages.
 - Regardless of human laws.
 - Regardless of consent.