

## **God wants us to Honor and Maintain Marriage**

Heb.13:4, Gen.2:21-25, Matt.19:1-9 Icor.7:1-15

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### **I. Lesson Summary**

The previous lesson was about showing Love to fellow Christians (Heb.13:2), and concerns for those experiencing persecution and mistreatment (Heb13:3). Today's lesson talks about the critical importance of sexual purity. In the modern world, sexual sins are often brushed aside as minor or irrelevant. History however shows that sex and its consequences are a powerful force in a persons life. So it is crucial for believers to maintain a Godly health approach to sexuality. This includes fidelity within marriage, as well as abstaining from sex until a person is married.

### **II. God wants us to Honor and maintain Marriage.**

#### **A. Heb. 13:4. Marriage should be honored.**

Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

#### **B. Genesis 2:21-25. Adam and Eve**

So the Lord God cause the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took one of mans ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman; for she was taken out of man.

### C. Matt. 19:1-9. Unlawful Divorce

1. v. 3. Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?
2. vv. 4-6. Haven't you read, he replied, that "at the beginning The Creator made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh so they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."
3. vv. 7-9. Why then, they asked, did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away? Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

D. 1 Cor. 7:1-15. Concerning married life.

1. vv. 1-3. “Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman, but since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to the husband.”
2. v. 4. “The wife does not have authority over her own body, but yields it to her husband. In the same way the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.”
3. vv. 5-7. “Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.”
4. vv. 8-9. “Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”
5. vv. 10-11. “To the married, I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband, But

if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.”

6. vv. 12-14. “To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife. And the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.”

7. v. “But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances ; God has called us to live in peace.”