



## The Value of Marriage

*1 Corinthians 7:10-11 -- But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.*

*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.*

### Introduction

1. The fact that in the last three decades divorce has gone from a stigma to gays openly parading out in the streets is screaming evidence that moral degeneration is a strong tide eroding the fabric of our culture.
2. Add to this other perversions as viewed as “alternative lifestyles”, living together as more desirable than marriage, the increase in venereal disease and AIDS, and that younger and younger children (about age nine) are having physical intimacy and babies.
3. Interestingly, those of liberal thinking are thinning themselves out: Homosexuals cannot procreate, those who believe in abortion are killing off those they would raise up with their particular perspective, and those who favor a breakdown in the family will produce children that hate them, besides leaving themselves lonely and rejected in their reclining years. They will probably be pitifully heard from later.
4. The values that God gives us make sense in the over all perspective, but we don't want to rely on logic and common sense alone. We need to look at the divine perspective in all of this and find out for ourselves, and for the world, what God truly expects from us. This is a lesson for the young and for the old alike.

### A. Consideration of God

1. **There is no such thing as morals or ethics without God.** Things are right or wrong simply because God says they are. One can justify, in their own mind, any sort of falsehood, any sort of perversion, and any sort of violence if God is out of the picture. [Consider time of Judges when each man did what was right in his own sight.]

2. **No matter what you think or feel is right, it is God who will do the judging and the sentencing in the end.** [Note the opening title passage from Hebrews.]

*Malachi 2:16 -- “For I hate divorce,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the Lord of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”*

*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....”*

3. **Godly views keep you from being conned.** You need to figure out what it is to be grown up as different from what the world tells you is being grown up.

- The world says poisoning your body with tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs; committing acts of severe violence; and engaging in irresponsible physical intimacy is maturity. If animals did these things we would consider them perverted.
- God says talking care of yourself; being responsible and trying to help others; and valuing the lives, mental well-being, and worth of others is real maturity. When people fail at this civilization crumbles.
- Who is right? Time often shows wisdom. All the rock stars that *survived* the drug culture will tell you they got off the drugs and their lives are a lot better now; there are no old gang members; and Hugh Hefner eventually took the plunge and got married. Even the tobacco company, Philip Morris, is running ads on the evils of smoking. [Plato; English Anthropologist; L.L'A]

## B. The Value of Abstinence/Problems of Incontinence

1. **Ancient courtship rituals helped couples learn about each other before marriage and forced them to concentrate on communicating.** Lack of communication is the leading cause of marital problems today.
2. **Abstinence is Discipline.** This is the effort to make the mind and spirit superior over the body. People often need to curtail impulses in order to progress. What would happen if every time you felt like killing someone you did?
3. **Courtship helps pick a partner for the right reasons and not for the less important allure of physical intimacy.** In marriage, more of your time will be spent in problem solving, finance budgeting, raising children, working as a team. Would it not be better to have a partner who was intelligent, ingenious, good natured and witty rather than just a good looking accessory.
4. **Marriage is Protection.** It protects one emotionally as you learn you can trust and depend on another. It protects one financially and legally. It protects from disease. Marital blood tests help screen out dangers from physical partners, prevent deformities developing in offspring, and screen out communicable diseases.

*1 Corinthians 6:16-19 -- Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her... Flee immorality... the immoral man sins against his own body.... Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

5. **Abstinence and Marriage keep things special.** [Ex: Rose, 2 Military ex.]

*1 Corinthians 7:2-4 -- But because of immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 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.*

*Abstinence is striving to keep control over your own body. Perversion is giving complete control of your body to something else other than what God meant for it to be given.*

## C. The Value of Marriage

1. **Helps you get to know another person better than you will ever know anyone else.**

*Matthew 19:4-6 -- And He [Christ] answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 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'? Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*

2. **Binds you to a relationship where you will need to learn how to work out problems.**

*Ephesians 5:22 -- Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

*1 Peter 3:7 -- You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

3. **Helps one grow to Maturity of body, mind, and spirit.**

*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."*