

Marriage and the Family – sermon 1 – 7/03/10 (am)

Marriage ... Creation Ordinance

Genesis 2:15-24

***Theme:** God graciously provided
man with a suitable helper.*

Marriage has been called the most valuable institution on earth.

How can such a claim be made?

Marriage was the first human institution.

All other institutions are in one way or another built upon marriage.

Marriage is valuable!

The home is important!

Yet today we see chaos in many homes.

It is appropriate and necessary to look at God's directives for marriage and the family.

God's Gracious Dealings with Adam (Genesis 2:15-23)

God created a man.

God had intentions for Adam, 2:18.

The Hebrew is significant here:

Not good – It was *bad* for Adam to be alone. He was deficient.

Helper - Someone to provide what was lacking. (Helper must not be restricted to marriage!)

Suitable - Partner & counterpart.

God was going to give Adam a suitable helper.

Someone equal with him before God but with a different role in marriage and the family.

God graciously made Adam aware
of his need for a suitable helper,
cf. 2:19ff.

God prepared Adam to appreciate
the gift of the woman. *What
grace!*

Woman made from his rib – *‘not made out of his head to top him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.*

Matthew Henry

Marriage – A Creation Ordinance

God established marriage as the first and most basic of human institutions.

Marriage is a **creation ordinance** – it is for Christians and non-Christians.

Characteristics of the Marriage Union (Genesis 2:24)

- 1. Marriage is an exclusive one man – one woman relationship.**
Marriage is to be heterosexual, not homosexual.

2. Marriage involves *leaving* and *cleaving*. Leaving and cleaving involves a public declaration in sight of God and others. Marriage is a new social arrangement.

- A man *leaves* his father and mother.
- His first obligation, his first loyalty now switches to his wife (and vice versa).
- The man *cleaves* to his wife (and *vice versa*).

There will always be problems in a marriage when a spouse shows unhealthy dependence on parents.

3. Marriage is the creation of a new body/flesh.

- Note God's order!
- No sex before marriage.
- No cohabitation before marriage.
- Both these *sinful social norms* break God's order.

Conclusion

Marriage is the most valuable institution on earth.

The home is the most vital unit in any society.

Godly marriages and ***Godly*** homes have the power to influence society exponentially.