

The Oologah Informer

May 25th, 2014

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

The Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 9 (Mt 6:16-24)

PM Sermon:

Excuses (Exodus 4:10-13)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The Book of Joshua – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Judging - Swearingen

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

Our National Shame Of "Shacking Up"

Chuck Northrop

Part 2
Marriage

When God created man, He created him with certain appetites such as sexual urges. God, also, originated a way to fulfill those desires. For the sexual desires, God instituted marriage -- one man for one woman until death. An examination of the topic of marriage in the Bible reveals that there are four purposes which God ordained in marriage:

Companionship. In the beginning, God decreed that it was "...not good that man should be alone..." (Gen. 2:18). Thus, God created a help meet for him -- a woman to be his companion. Someone to share his joys and his sorrows.

Bodily satisfaction. Sex hunger is as natural and honorable as food and drink hunger if it is kept in its proper place -- marriage. The Bible says, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4). Paul wrote, "...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (1 Cor. 7:2). In marriage, a man and a woman can be intimate and, yet, remain spiritually and morally pure.

Reproduction. Marriage is where the home begins for God blessed the first union and said, "Be fruitful and multiply..." (Gen. 1:27- 28). In this light, "...children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psa. 127:3-5).

Training of Children. Since marriage is for reproduction, it is only natural that marriage be used for the training of those that are procreated. A home with a father and a mother is the best place to raise children. Thus, Paul exhorts parents to "...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). When raising children with morals and values, we bless our children, ourselves, and the world in which we and they live.

When Jesus spoke of marriage, He taught, "...that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:4-6).

The "one flesh" in this passage and others have reference in part to the sexual relationship of a husband and his wife. Sex is fully commended in marriage and fully condemned outside of the marriage relationship.

Does It Work?

If living together or cohabitation is for the purpose of trying out one's mate, then a natural question would be, "Does it work?" Psychology Today reported in 1988, "Yale University sociologist Neil Bennett and colleagues found that cohabiting women were 80 percent more likely to separate or divorce than were women who had not lived with their spouses before marriage." In 1989, the National Survey of Families and Households related: "Unions begun by cohabitation are almost twice as likely to dissolve within 10 years compared to all first marriages -- 57 percent to 30 percent."

The very purpose for living together declares its most basic weakness. If its purpose is sexual, then it is opposed to God and morality. If its purpose is a trial for marriage, then it lacks commitment. This lack of commitment causes it to fail from its onset.

Living together sets up a relationship for failure. There is no real or clear commitment. It involves no legal or social responsibilities. There is no public pronouncement nor pledge. It is for the moment while marriage is "until death do us part."