

MARRIAGE IS FOR LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 19:3-9**. From Roy H. Enoch (03-21-1993).
- B. Our study of marriage is concerned with what God says, rather than men.
 - 1. God instituted marriage and is the expert on what is best.
 - 2. He designed us and knows what works best (Gen. 2:18,24).
 - 3. It is the first divine institution that God authorized.
- C. The characteristic of marriage that seems to be emphasized the most is that it is for life.
 - 1. God requires commitment for important things.
 - 2. He requires complete commitment for the most important (Mt. 19:6).
- D. We want to study this subject by noticing:
 - 1. Marriage is the basis of the home.
 - 2. Marriage was from the beginning.
 - 3. God's marriage is monogamous.

I. GOD MADE MARRIAGE THE BASIS OF THE HOME.

- A. Marriage is described as having two purposes.
 - 1. The place of the most intimate companionship; "and the two shall become one flesh" (1Cor. 7:2-4).
 - 2. It is also for the purpose of providing for children (Gen. 1:28).
- B. Both men and women were given roles in the home.
 - 1. Man was to be the head of the house and earn the living (Gen. 3:17,18).
 - 2. The woman was to be in submission, bear children and keep the home (Gen. 3:16).

II. GOD'S LAW OF MARRIAGE WAS FROM THE BEGINNING.

- A. God allowed Moses to make concessions because of man's stubbornness (Mt. 19:4,5,7,8).
 - 1. This was still much more moderate than the customs of the time.
 - 2. It protected women from far worse treatment that was often practiced.
- B. God permitted divorce for many reasons, but Jesus points out that "from the beginning it was not so."
 - 1. Jesus goes on to give God's will, and our law now (Mt. 19:9).
 - 2. And Paul told the Athenians that God no longer accepts ignorance (Ac. 17:30).
- C. God also recognized marriage among those who were not His people (Jn. 4:17).
 - 1. She was not a Jew, but Jesus recognized that she had been married five times. (This does not mean that He approved all of the marriages.)
 - 2. Living with a man did not constitute marriage.

III. GOD'S MARRIAGE WAS MONOGAMOUS (one man for one woman for life).

- A. In a marriage that He approves, God joins them together, and Jesus said, "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
 - 1. There are only two ways a marriage may be separated.
 - a. The death of one spouse.
 - b. The breaking of the marriage vows by sexual immorality.
 - 2. God allows the surviving mate to remarry "in the Lord."
 - 3. Jesus said that the one who divorced the unfaithful companion could remarry (Mt. 19:9).
- B. Those who divorce for other reasons are still married in the sight of God and live in adultery if they have sexual relations.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Many do as they please without concern about what pleases God.

- B. When we ignore God's natural law, we suffer the consequences.
- C. The consequences of ignoring God's spiritual law is eternal.
- D. Let us humble ourselves to do His will for the greatest happiness, here and in eternity.