

Christian Marriage



Topics

- I. Christian View of Marriage.
- II. Differences from other marriages.
- III. God's motives for marriage.
- IV. An Orthodox Prescription for marital problems.

I.

**Christian
View of
Marriage**

Christian View of Marriage described by St John Chrysostom

- “God restored in Cana what was broken in Eden”
- *“ Marriage like monasticism, is a sign of God’s kingdom, because it begins to restore the unity of mankind , which was broken by sin. Thus marriage is a great mystery in itself, the unity of redeemed mankind in Christ”*

Biblical Definition of Marriage

من اجل هذا يترك الرجل اباه وامه ويلتصق بامرأته ويكون الاثنان جسدا واحدا

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2,

Matthew 19,

Mark 10,

Ephesians 5

Genesis 1 and 2

فخلق الله الانسان على صورته على صورة الله خلقه ذكرا وانثى خلقهم
وباركهم الله وقال لهم اثمروا واكثروا واملأوا الارض واخضعوها وتسلطوا على سمك البحر
وعلى طير السماء وعلى كل حيوان يدب على الارض

...

وجبل الرب الاله آدم ترابا من الارض ونفخ في انفه نسمة حياة
فصار آدم نفسا حيّة

...

وقال الرب الاله ليس جيدا ان يكون آدم وحده . فاصنع له معينا نظيره
فاوقع الرب الاله سباتا على آدم فنام . فأخذ واحدة من اضلاعه وملا مكانها لحما
وبنى الرب الاله الضلع التي اخذها من آدم امرأة واحضرها الى آدم
فقال آدم الآن عظم من عظامي ولحم من لحمي . هذه تدعى امرأة لانها من امرء اخذت

ذلك يترك الرجل اباه وامه ويلتصق بامرأته ويكونان جسدا واحدا

أفسس 5 : 25 - 33

ايها الرجال احبوا نساءكم كما احب المسيح ايضا الكنيسة واسلم نفسه لاجلها لكي يقدسها مطهرا اياها بغسل الماء بالكلمة

لكي يحضرها لنفسه كنيسة مجيدة لا دنس فيها ولا غضن او شيء من مثل ذلك بل تكون مقدسة وبلا عيب

كذلك يجب على الرجال ان يحبوا نساءهم كاجسادهم. من يحب امرأته يحب نفسه

فانه لم يبغض احد جسده قط بل يقوته ويربيه كما الرب ايضا للكنيسة
لأننا اعضاء جسمه من لحمه ومن عظامه

من اجل هذا يترك الرجل ابيه وامه ويلتصق بامرأته ويكون الاثنان جسدا واحدا

هذا السر عظيم ولكنني انا اقول من نحو المسيح والكنيسة

واما انتم الافراد فليحب كل واحد امرأته هكذا كنفسه واما المرأة فلتهب رجلها

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ***“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

Relationship between Genesis and Ephesians.

God united with Adam by creating him in his image, according to his likeness, then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.

Then God arranged for Adam's and Eve's unity by creating Eve from the bones and flesh of Adam.

Adam and Eve lost their unity with God by disconnecting from God through sin.

Then God returned to the Christian marriage it holy unity by uniting with mankind.

The Wedding of Cana



The Wedding of Cana

وفي اليوم الثالث كان عرس في قانا الجليل وكانت ام يسوع هناك
ودعي ايضا يسوع وتلاميذه الى العرس

ولما فرغت الخمر قالت ام يسوع له ليس لهم خمر
قال لها يسوع ما لي ولك يا امرأة. لم تأت ساعتى بعد
قالت امه للخدام مهما قال لكم فافعلوه

وكانت ستة اجران من حجارة موضوعة هناك حسب تطهير اليهود
يسع كل واحد مطرين او ثلاثة

قال لهم يسوع املأوا الاجران ماء. فملأوها الى فوق
ثم قال لهم استقوا الآن وقدموا الى رئيس المتكأ فقدموا

The Wedding of Cana

- On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “***They have no wine.***” Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? “***My hour has not yet come.***” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do *it.*” Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, “***Fill the water pots with water.***” And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, “Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast.” And they took *it.*

II.

**Differences
from other
marriages**

1. Three members relationship.

- God is a fundamental member of Christian marriage.
- God is the founder of the relationship.
- God is the cohesive force (love) between the spouses.
- God is the intermediate member between the spouses.
- “Spouses can not have a successful Christian Marriage unless each initially get married to Christ.”

2. Unity.

- **Unity between the three members**

فقال آدم هذه الآن عظم من عظامي ولحم من لحمي هذه تدعى امرأة لانها من امرء اخذت من اجل هذا يترك الرجل اباه وامه ويلتصق بامرأته ويكون الاثنان جسدا واحدا

لاننا اعضاء جسمه من لحمه ومن عظامه

من اجل هذا يترك الرجل اباه وامه ويلتصق بامرأته ويكون الاثنان جسدا واحدا

- *Church reads John chapter 1 in Matrimonial liturgy*
- *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory”*
- *“ Marriage like monasticism, is a sign of God’s kingdom, because it begins to restore the unity of mankind , which was broken by sin. Thus marriage is a great mystery in itself, the unity of redeemed mankind in Christ” St. John Chrysostom.*

3. Nature of love

- Giving Love. (Genesis 1 and 2)
- Sacrificing Love. (Ephesians 5)
- Defined in details in Corinthians 13.

Love as defined in Corinthians 13

Love suffers long *and* is kind;
love does not envy;
love does not parade itself, is not
puffed up;
does not behave rudely,
does not seek its own,
is not provoked,
thinks no evil;
does not rejoice in iniquity, but
rejoices in the truth;
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails.

المحبة تتأني وترفق
المحبة لا تحسد
المحبة لا تتفاخر ولا تنتفخ
ولا تقبح
ولا تطلب ما لنفسها
ولا تحتد
ولا تظن السوء
ولا تفرح بالاثم بل تفرح بالحق
وتحتمل كل شيء
وتصدق كل شيء
وترجو كل شيء وتصبر على كل
شيء
المحبة لا تسقط ابدا

4. Being a Church Mystery

“This is a great mystery”

A. Why is Matrimony a Mystery?

B. Why is it a great Mystery ?

A. Why is Matrimony a Mystery?

- Mystery of unity with God.
- The two unite into one.
- Through uniting with God.
- GOD is LOVE.
- They unite by LOVE (GOD) into one.
- They live with God in a state similar to Adam's and Eve's relationship with God.

B. Why is it a great Mystery ?

- God wants us to practice this amazing experience of scarifying love.
- When we taste this experience, we will taste God himself, because.....

GOD is LOVE

5. Life-long one destiny (Matthew 19 & Mark 10)

- “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for *just* any reason?”
- And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female*, and said, ***‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’***? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. **Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.**”

6. Equality and complimentary roles.

- And the LORD God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*”

وقال الرب الاله ليس جيدا ان يكون آدم وحده فاصنع له معينا نظيره
غير ان الرجل ليس من دون المرأة ولا المرأة من دون الرجل في الرب
راس كل رجل هو المسيح. واما راس المرأة فهو الرجل. وراس المسيح
هو الله

Differences from other marriages (Summary)

1. Three members relationship.
2. Unity between the three members.
3. Nature of love, is giving and sacrificing love
4. Being a (great) sacrament.
5. Life-long one destiny.
6. Equality and complimentary roles.

III

God's Motives for Marriage

God's Motives for Marriage

- Uniting with God through the spouse and experiencing Christian Love. (Eph. 5)
- Companionship and Intimacy (Gen 2: 18).
- Fruitfulness/ procreation. (Gen 1: 28)
- وباركهم الله وقال لهم اثمروا واكثروا واملأوا الارض
- Purity and holiness. (1 Cor. 7 : 1-2)
- ولكن لسبب الزنى ليكن لكل واحد امرأته وليكن لكل واحدة رجلها
- Pleasure. (1 Ti 6 : 7)

“Who gives us richly all things to enjoy”

Video

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZACkRe_W4Gg&feature=share

IV.

**An Orthodox
Prescription
for marital
problems.**

Reconnect with the three members

- Reconnect with yourself by self judgment.
- Reconnect with God through prayer.
- Repent and confess.
- Reunite with God, through communion.
- Reconnect with your spouse by communication.
- Learn your spouse's love accent.