

## The Sanctity Of Marriage In A Sin-Sick World

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Our clarion call to marriage and the home as God would have it is falling on deaf ears in America. Strong sins summon strong language. Our nation is in a nose dive to hell fire and here, at least in part, is why:

More children are born outside of marriage (to mothers under 30) than in marriage, 53%.<sup>1</sup>

Our Divorce Rate is 45-50%.<sup>2</sup>

Our Divorce Rate for second marriages is 60-67%.<sup>3</sup>

Our Divorce Rate for third marriages is 70-75%.<sup>4</sup>

The church of our Lord, by definition “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15), needs to shore up the truth on this subject by practicing what the Bible says in this connection because in far too many instances we are mirroring the world. We are not just looking at “mistakes” young teenagers are making because the vast majority of the unwed mothers mentioned above are adults!

Could the Word of God be any clearer than it is in Malachi 2:16, “For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce” (NKJV)?

For centuries, nations have been informed that “righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). So, while we know of the negative impact disrespect for God’s law on marriage has on nations, someone needs to think of the adverse impact it has on the church of Christ. For example, leadership is fundamental to the continuation and advancement of any local congregation of God’s people—“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18). In order for men to be Scripturally qualified to serve as elders and deacons they must possess specific domestic characteristics, specifically, for elders, “the husband of one wife...given to hospitality...One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)...having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly” (1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5; Titus 1:6). Deacons are to be “the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well” (1 Timothy 3:12). Then, concerning both elders and deacons Paul wrote, “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (1 Timothy 3:11). American society is not conducive to producing family men who can be qualified to serve in the leadership of the church. As a result, the bride of Christ suffers (Ephesians 5:22-33).

But, help is on the way! By reading the Bible we can know what to do about this very challenging situation. *First*, heed 1 John 2:15-17, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of

God abideth for ever.” So, don’t love the world because it is passing away, and those who do love it do not have the love of God in them. *Second*, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25). It’s not just “love your wives” everyone does that, some love wives so much they divorce one and marry another then another! It is “love your wives, *even as Christ also loved the church!*” How much did Christ love the church, His bride? He “gave Himself for it!” When husbands love their wives that much they won’t be divorcing!

*Third*, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church” (Ephesians 5:22-23). It’s not just lip service to submission either, because the Bible says next, “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [*in that manner*] let the wives be to their own husbands in everything” (v. 24). As you don’t have the church without submission to Christ, even so you don’t have a marriage without submission to your husband! Oh, you may certainly have some kind of union, but it is not a Scriptural marriage anymore than you can have some kind of a church without submission to Christ, but it certainly is not the church of Christ (Romans 16:16). *Fourth*, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:1-3). Disobedient, disrespectful children, who are hurt the worst in a divorce, are busting up many homes and inflicting upon themselves sorrow upon sorrow world without end! Attention, fathers, “provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (v. 4). Where children are blessed with such a father there will be happiness and harmony in every home so ordered.

“The sanctity of marriage in a sin-sick world” is heralded to the benefit of all and to the glory of God when Bible teaching as presented here is loved, respected, and obeyed. By knowing we *can* do better, it puts us in a position to actually do better.

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<sup>1</sup>*New York Times*, Jason DeParle and Sabrina Tavernise, Feb. 17, 2012, “For Women Under 30, Most Births Occur Outside Marriage.” And, [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org) statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics in association with the CDC.

<sup>2</sup>[www.divorcestatistics.org](http://www.divorcestatistics.org).

<sup>3</sup>*ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>*ibid.*