



“Relationships of Love for a Lifetime!”

MATTHEW Chapter 19:1-15

> (v1-6) Let’s learn about “Marriage” and the “Law of First Mention”:
- Jesus gave reference to “*in the beginning,*” which is Genesis 2:18-25.

- **Observation:** (1) It’s not good for man to be alone, get married!

(2) The woman is a “*helper comparable to him*” – That is to complete the relationship, not to compete in the relationship.

(3) The woman was taken from the rib-side of man, closest to the heart, that he would love her, cherish her, and protect her.

(4) The two become one flesh, inseparable. When sin entered their lives (Genesis Ch. 3) this beautiful dynamic of love and joy, became incredibly dysfunctional.

- **Insight:** Listen to this thought provoking statement by John MacArthur, “In **Genesis 3:16** it says, “*your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you,*” the desire spoken of here does not refer to her original God-given desire for loving submission and companionship, which she already had before the fall. Her desire would no longer be to submit to his rule but to usurp it. The use the Hebrew word translated “*desire*” in this text relates to seeking control and dominance. Just as the fallen woman’s role of submission was subverted, so was the fallen man’s role of headship. His rule over her would no longer be benevolent and selfless but overbearing and selfish. It was at the fall that both feminism and male chauvinism were born, when women began to seek supremacy and men began to be suppressive. Because men are naturally stronger, male chauvinism has been the dominant of those two perversions throughout history. In many ancient cultures, including Jewish, women were frequently treated more like animals bought and traded than partners to be loved and cherished.”

> TOP 10 COMPLAINTS FROM UNHAPPY WIVES & HUSBANDS (from Redbook Magazine)

- TOP 10 COMPLAINTS FROM UNHAPPY WIVES:

- #1 – He never helps around the house.
- #2 – He doesn’t know anything about the kids.
- #3 – He’s always playing video games.
- #4 – We have the same arguments every day.
- #5 – He drinks too much.
- #6 – His family drives me nuts.
- #7 – He always brings calorie-bombs into the house.
- #8 – He always wants to sex.
- #9 – The credit card statement is always a surprise.
- #10 – A little appreciation would be nice.

- TOP 10 COMPLAINTS FROM UNHAPPY HUSBANDS:

- #1 – Lack of appreciation.
- #2 – Fun times wane.
- #3 – It’s always all about the kids.
- #4 – She’s not as romantic as she was.
- #5 – Sexual appetite fading.
- #6 – Decisions, decisions.
- #7 – Changing belief system.

#8 – Lack of intimacy.

#9 – One-way support system.

#10 – Work comes first.

- Let's simply **LOVE EACH OTHER SIMPLY** by producing the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT EVERYDAY**, Galatians 5:22-23 reads, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

- **LOVE** – (Gk.) *Agape* - God is love. *Agape* delights in giving. This love keeps on loving even when the loved one is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy. It is unconditional love. *Agape* desires only the good of the one loved. It is a consuming passion for the well-being of others.

- **JOY** - Is a positive attitude or pleasant emotion; delight. This joy rises above circumstances and focuses on the very character of God. This kind of joy looks beyond the present to our future salvation.

- **PEACE** – The peace that Jesus Christ spoke of was a combination of hope, trust, and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by a reconciliation with God.

- **LONGSUFFERING** - Is literally, "long of mind or soul" (regarded as the seat of the emotions), opposed to shortness of mind or soul, irascibility, impatience, intolerance.

- **KINDNESS** - In the New Testament, the Greek word translated as "grace" best represents the idea of God's kindness or lovingkindness. Because God has been gracious toward believers, they should treat all people with kindness or grace.

- **GOODNESS** - This goodness is in the sense of what is upright, righteous, in the sense of kindness of heart or act. It signifies not merely goodness as a quality; rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds.

- **FAITHFULNESS** - Speaks of being faithful, loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, and resolute. God's faithfulness should be so deeply reflected in the lives of His people (Gal 5:22) that they can be called simply "*the faithful.*"

- **GENTLENESS** - Kindness, consideration, a spirit of fairness and compassion. Let's look to JESUS for *gentleness* (Matthew 11:28-30), our Lord and Savior calls us to **LEARN** of His *gentleness*, for this is His own disposition.

- **SELF-CONTROL** - Speaks of the control of one's actions or emotions by the will, the act of denying yourself, controlling your impulses, the trait of resolutely controlling your own behavior. Self-control is to exercise self-discipline, to engage in self-restraint, to have willpower, to maintain levelheadedness.

> (v7-10) **WHAT ABOUT DIVORCE!**

- Divorce is the legal dissolution of a marriage. The divine ideal for marriage is clearly a lifelong bond that unites husband and wife in a "one flesh" relationship (Matt 19:5). The marriage union is a holy condition founded by God and is not to be dissolved at the will of man (Matt 19:6). Separations of this bond displease God and pose a serious threat to the social order: "*And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garments with violence*" (Mal 2:15-16).

- In Jesus' day, confusion prevailed about the grounds for divorce. Even the rabbis could not agree on what constituted the "**uncleanness**" of Deut 24:1. Followers of Rabbi Shammai felt adultery was the only grounds for divorce. Those who followed Rabbi Hillel accepted many reasons, including such things as poor cooking. **Jesus' main point in these statements was that divorce is contrary to God's plan for marriage and should never be taken lightly.**

Even though Moses allowed divorce, this was an exception granted under the law because of their "hardness" of heart (Mark 10:5). Jesus desired to put "teeth" into the Law by declaring that, even if the divorced couple had not been sexually unfaithful to each other, they would commit adultery in God's sight if they now married other partners.

In allowing divorce for the single reason of "immorality," or illicit sexual intercourse, Jesus' thought is clearly that a person dissolves his marriage by creating a sexual union with someone other than the marriage partner. Such union violates the sacred "oneness" intended by God when he united Adam and Eve in the first marriage relationship (Gen 2:18-25).

Thus, divorce on the grounds of unchastity usually frees the innocent partner to remarry without incurring the guilt of adultery (Matt 19:9). Although Jesus allowed divorce for adultery, He did not require it. **On the contrary, He insisted that divorce disrupts God's plan for marriage and left the way open for repentance and forgiveness.** (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- Divorce is also discussed in 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.

(v11-12) THE WAY OF SINGLENESS!

Paul's counsel – 1 Cor 7:1-2 - *It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. The Greek word for touch is **hapto** - "to fasten to," hence, of fire, "to kindle," "to have carnal intercourse with a woman."*

1 Cor 7:8-9 - *But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

(v13-15) JESUS WANTS TO BLESS ALL THE CHILDREN & EVERY FAMILY!

Family insight – Follow Jesus example, pray for and with your children. The laying on of hands is a sign of loving affection and identification, "*for such is the kingdom of heaven.*"

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US!!!

