

The Precepts of Marriage

by S.G .Smith

A Divine Institution

Much has always been said about marriage, since the concept has been with us since the beginning. With our modern women's liberation movement, and perhaps the corresponding *Men Going Their Own Way* (MIGTOW), there has been an overarching emphasis on so-called *gender studies* from primary schools to the universities.

As an old "fuddy-duddy", I have been inclined to conclude that gender studies have simply added to our cultural confusion. Furthermore, it does not appear, to me at least, that most people are either happier or seemingly fulfilled in all this gender mania. What happened? Society has accommodated *gay* marriage, which has been followed by *gay* divorce (or perhaps *less-than-gay* divorce). People, now, are even attempting to marry their pets. Wow, it seems we really took a wrong turn somewhere.

Why can't someone marry their dog? The emperor Caligula appointed his horse to the Roman Senate. Oh, wait a minute....that was when Rome was rapidly in *decline*.

Naturally nothing like that could ever happen in the US, or could it?

Now backing up and reconsidering the concept of marriage as a *divine* institution, perhaps our problems concerning gender, sex, or marriage is that we have left out the "divine".

God's Will.....Will Be Done

If, in fact God has created man in His own image (male and female created He them), then it seems important to have some understanding and reference to the Creator of the Universe if we are to have success in this institution called marriage. Furthermore (and I hope I'm not being too abstract or esoteric here), I sense that God had this marriage thing coupled with the idea of producing a *family*, which involved having children, which might just be like their parents....*male* or *female*. I really haven't come across anything that would tend to make me think any differently.....with the exception of the maddening crowd who are on the forefront of our cultural decline. There's always that.

Screaming, rioting, or protesting may actually have a place depending on circumstances within our social history. However, these efforts never produce *truth*. You might wish to picket or protest against the reality of gravity all day long. I doubt it will serve much of a purpose.

Consequently, if marriage, like gravity, is instituted by God, then it would seem better to understand the phenomenon

rather than protest its form or existence. Admittedly, marriage as a social construct is far more *spiritually* complex than something like gravity. Nevertheless, it would be better to consider that there are unalterable precepts associated with marriage as a divine institution.

Another Rule of "3"

I'm not a psychologist, pastor, or marriage counselor; but I can read, observe, and I've been around awhile. When boiled down from a Biblical perspective, there seem to be three simple rules, obligations, precepts, for men and women who elect to become one flesh.

Simply put, the husband should *primarily* serve in the general areas concerning a) provision, b) protection, as well as c) adoration. Additionally, the wife's *primary* responsibilities are to a) honor, b) respect, and c) adore her husband. I am using the term *adore*, or adoration, to refer to sexual intimacy. Although, no doubt, there might be exceptions, I trust that most couples have a grasp of mutual intimacy so I won't belabor this point. If any have problems in this area, please consult a pastor or some other professional counselor ☺.

Apart from sexual intimacy, the other significant problems within most marriages occur in the areas of provision and protection, as well as, honor and respect. It is not that a man shouldn't honor and respect his wife, or that a wife never assists in provision and protection; but the basic

fundamental gender roles are functionally (and proportionally) asymmetric. The key word is *primary*.

For example, once married, if a man does not work to make provision for his wife and children he is basically a *deadbeat* (our terminology). In ITim.5:8, the Bible calls such a one as being “worse than an infidel”. Of course, by today’s standards, the notions of *work* or *provision* have been greatly expanded (often leading to more problems). Nevertheless, if the man’s effort does not result in food and clothing for his family, then something is *wrong* from a Biblical perspective.

By contrast, if a woman fails to demonstrate appropriate honor (deference, obedience, etc.) toward her husband then she is undermining the natural hierarchy which God designed for marriage. From a Biblical perspective this would be counted as rebellion. Unfortunately, this dishonor may often be grounded in a wife’s disrespect for her husband, which may have been seeded by the husband’s failure in his responsibilities. If a husband’s adultery results in his wife’s distrust, disrespect, and dishonor, then who is ultimately at fault. Sadly, this mutual failure between couples in the fulfillment of their gender roles contributes to the mutual deterioration of their union.

Of course, there are other problems which afflict marriage which I put in the area of mutual stupidity. Such things as debt, or other financial problems, along with bad choices associated with raising children

clearly add to the stress of maintaining one’s marriage. However, couples do survive apart from the difficulties of these circumstances.

One could spend all day listing situations where couples violate the foundational Biblical principles I have mentioned resulting in the fracturing, fragmentation, and dissolution of their marriage (and yes, by the way, the Bible even exhorts married couples to sustain regular carnal intimacy in I Cor.7). This brings us to the central problem which has been hinted at all along in this discussion: *ignorance or rejection of God’s Will*, or in more specific terms, God’s Word.

Closing Thoughts

In this discussion of “3” I can’t help but think of Newton’s three laws of motion. Since I am not planning on traveling at the speed of light anytime soon, Newton’s laws (despite Einstein’s contribution) are pretty much what I have always operated by, which even provided for my career. Additionally, I once saw where someone had taken Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity and, with the appropriate assumptions, essentially derived Newton’s Law of Gravity. This was rather reminiscent of how Newton’s mathematical derivation showed the connection between his Law of Gravity with Kepler’s Third Law of Planetary Motion. These three guys kind of contributed one, two, or three things with regard to our understanding to the cosmos.

Now, I did not insert this mathematical physics craziness to trouble

you. I mention such things to encourage you to see that there have been some people who thought through and worked on rational concerns which continue to have a perpetual impact on philosophy and culture. The Bible had a significant impact on their rational philosophy. Furthermore, I don’t really believe their efforts had much to do with marriage or personal relationships, in any literal sense.

It doesn’t really matter what *you* might want for *your marriage*. You didn’t create your own life and you did not originally design or institute anything like marriage. So if you want to marry (?) your gay lover, or your dog, or even beat your head against the wall perhaps like some Gen-Xers, Millenials, Goths, or Emos, you’re free to do so in free America until our collective irrationality destroys one of the freest countries in the world. And herein is the sad testimony of humanity; we cannot seem to free ourselves from sin and the resulting insanity which follows.

God is the very God, of life, freedom, and love. Without God you will lose (or are in the process of losing) life, freedom, and love. The Father, Son and Holy Ghost are best reflected within creation as man, a woman, and the spirit of love between them. Any significant deviation from this model results in a deficiency of what might be hoped for or appropriately expected in a marital union. One thing for sure is that your marriage belongs to you as long as your partner is in agreement. Have a nice destiny!