

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**September 24, 2017**  
**Honoring Marriage**  
**1: Why the Big Deal?**

**TEXT:** Hebrews 13:4 NKJV Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4 MSG Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.

We see in these verses several very important ideas:

- Marriage is to be honored by all, God values it
- Sex is sacred
- Sexual sin is dangerous.

In our secular culture, marriage is optional and reversible, sex is a social transaction, and sexual sin is non-existent. Sacred is a foreign term.

We are going to visit these topics in a practical way. If God has such strong feelings, we ought to take some effort to find and follow Him.

**1) Honor marriage because God does**

- a) It is the first institution. It came before children and before organized worship. Genesis 2:21-25
- b) Matthew 19:6 God “yokes together” the husband and wife.
- c) God calls it a covenant to which He is a witness Malachi 2:14
- d) Hebrews called it honorable, valuable, and precious. Hebrews 13:4 NLT Give honor to marriage,
- e) Why the big deal? He has His reasons

**2) Purpose #1: To keep you from being alone.** Gen 2:18

- a) God intended one man and one woman permanently. All else is because of hardened hearts. Matthew 19:8
  - i) God created us as a relationship – Gen 1:27
  - ii) God ordained it in the garden of Eden. It is supposed to be an Edenic blessing. Ecclesiastes 9:9
  - iii) Proverbs 18:22. God endorsed it and called it good. He says finding a wife is a demonstration of divine favor.
- b) She is my companion. Malachi 2:14
  - i) Proverbs 19:14 – Her value is her intelligence and insight!
  - ii) She is a person of valor. Pr 12:4. Excellent = *wealth, virtue, valor, strength*, might.

c) The human heart has a drive to union designed to bring the male and female together, first so that “it” will be good (2:18)

i) That this threefold union will reflect the Godhead (Eccl 4:9-12. / Eph 5:21)

ii) There will be procreation. Genesis 1:27-28

**3) Purpose #2: To reveal the Gospel:** The marriage relation: A Christ-revealing mystery. Eph 5:30-32

- a) Your marriage is your best Gospel tract
- b) Kids are built to receive salvation knowledge from godly parents.
  - i) Kids learn the nature of God by seeing a man and a woman
  - ii) We all interpret the bible in light of our home of origin. It takes effort to rise above our internal picture of God received from our home.
- c) The marriage is the message: Mom & Dad demonstrate unconditional love and security and stability: a safe place.
- d) The Christian home is the basic unit for training children: Genesis 18:19 / Dt 6:6-9. Life is your opportunity; the Bible is your handbook.
- e) The church builds parents. Parents raise children. Children become adults who live what they learned.
- f) **Repairs needed?** We all need some overhaul to get our thinking lined up with the Word. Do it! Take a step today to find a mentor to help you grow.
- g) The dynamics of a sacred marriage: Ephesians 5:33 AMP However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. [I Pet. 3:2.]

**Coming Attractions:**

Purpose #3 flows from the first two: To put controls on the sexual impulse. 1 Cor 7:1-9. It is a **safeguard** against temptation.

Next week we talk about sex!