

Marriage Is For Life

By Ron Boatwright

Marriage was the first institution, which God established in the beginning for all mankind. Since God is its author, God has given the regulations to govern it. Concerning marriage, Jesus said in Matthew 19:5-6, "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." Marriage is a lifelong commitment. Marriage is one man, for one wife, for life.

A proper observance of the principle of "shall be one flesh" will solve most every problem in the marriage relationship. Each will treat their spouse, as they would treat their own flesh. When a man and woman marry the union is spoken of as "what God has joined together." Marriage is a covenant made with both one's spouse and with God. What should the husband and wife relationship be? In Ephesians 5:24-25 we read, "Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." Love causes us to be kind. Love knows no limit to its endurance and no end in its trust.

When two people marry they are bound together by God for as long as the other shall live. As we read in 1 Corinthians 7:39, "A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord." God placed strong protective laws around the home. Also notice that she is to marry only a Christian. Marriage is sacred and holy, because God instituted marriage, not man. In our permissive age, let us hold fast to the sacredness of marriage and the home. Our wedding vows must be "for better, for worse, till death us do part". The Bible clearly spells out exactly what our Lord expects of us in marriage. Man cannot put marriage asunder except at the risk of his own soul.