

A romantic image of a couple holding hands against a sunset background. A large, semi-transparent cross is overlaid on the hands. The scene is framed by a white, torn-paper-like border.

Marriage in the Church and World

Why God takes it so seriously; why Satan hates it so much.

God Instituted Marriage

- Genesis 2:18-24
 - It is not good for man to be alone.
 - No other creature is adequate to be one with (not dog, or horse, or fish, don't even ask about cats)
 - Takes the rib from man, creates woman, and presents her to man ordaining them to be one flesh, and compels them to create a family
- Matthew 19:4-6
 - God made them male and female
 - For this cause they become one flesh

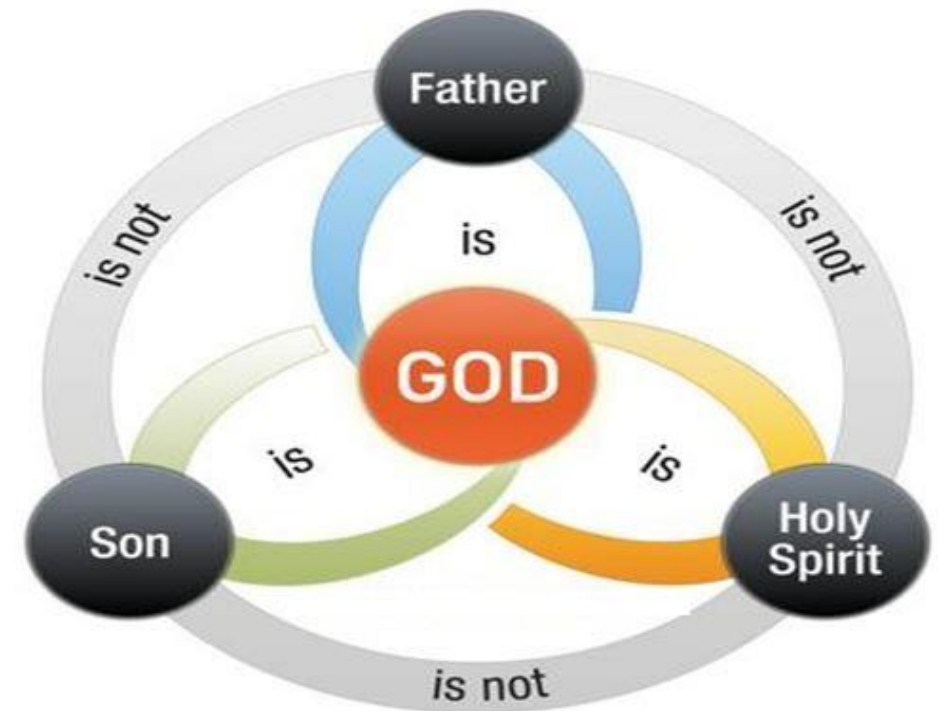
Why did God Institute Marriage?

- **Genesis 1:26-28, 31 (Matthew 19:4,5)**
 - God created male and female in marriage
 - God created male and female in His own image.
 - The triune God said let Us create man(kind) in Our own image.
 - The image of God on Earth is husband, wife, and God.
- **Ephesians 5:21-33**
 - The two shall be one flesh as Jesus is one with the church.
 - The husband is to represent Jesus, the wife to represent the church.
 - The husband is to treat his wife like Jesus treats the church ... love, forgiveness, service, provide, bring joy and leave peace with her in order to draw people to Christ.
 - The wife is to treat her husband as the church is to treat Jesus ... respect, follow the lead, commune with in order to show people how to relate to Christ

Marriage

Equality in Marriage

- Galatians 3:28 – There is neither male nor female in Christ
- Genesis 2:23, 24 – Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, we are one.
- I Corinthians 7:3-5 – Neither has power over his/her own body, the spouse has assumed that power.
- Though equal there is a leader, just like in the Trinity, I Corinthians 11:3 the husband leads the wife (as Christ leads the church), Jesus leads the man, and the Father leads Jesus. Though the Father and Son and Spirit are ONE and equal, the Father leads ... not the boss, the leader.



Contrast of Marriage Views

"the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him"

John 14:17

Godly View

- Man and Woman become one.
- Marriage is by choice.
- Marriage is by covenant. (Malachi 2:14)
- Grace requires working through every issue in marriage – even infidelity.
- Man and wife are equal – ONE, husband leads, but total equality, Just like the Father leads but the triune God is completely equal.

Worldly View

- Each person needs to be true to themselves.
- There is only one person destined to be with; it is ok to keep looking if you missed, divorce and try again.
- Marriage is by contract
- If I am not happy, I can leave whenever I want.
- One dominates the other and men have already taken their turn.

God's Stand on Divorce

- Matthew 19:3-6

- Pharisees asked Jesus if it was ok to put away your wife for any reason at all ...
- Jesus (God the Son) answers, "Have ye not read ...". In other words, don't you already know ...
- For this cause (the image of God on Earth) of marriage husbands cleave to their wives.
- What God has put together, the marriage, let no man separate. Since it is a semblance of the Trinity, it is like saying God can separate. The answer, is NO.

- Matthew 19:7-9

- Pharisees ask why Moses commanded divorce
- Jesus said Moses permitted divorce because of hard hearted people in order to allow mistreated people to find someone who would treat them properly. But from the beginning, it was not so. In other words, it was not God's desire.

Marital Arts

There are fundamental things that are required.

But there is an independent quality to it as well.

There is a requirement of work to be one with two separate persons. God does this and requires us to follow His example. As He is three in one, He requires us to bring Him into our marriage to be the three in one also.

The Bible promises those that get married will have trouble in the flesh –

I Corinthians 7:28

EVERY Marriage will have tough times, a promise from the Holy Spirit. Not if, when, is the scenario. Learning the intent God has for marriage is critical to be prepared for dealing with tough times.



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