

THE MEANING, MANNERS, MISSION, AND MIGHT OF MARRIAGE
PART TWO OF THE SERIES “SEEK THE OLD PATHS”
JEREMIAH 6:16

- A. The family as defined and designed by God is under attack.
- B. Satan knows full well, “So goes the family; as goes the nation, especially the church.”
- C. There have been vigorous attempts by the homosexual and lesbian community to force so-called “same-sex” marriages.
- D. Every member of the Lord’s church must understand what God requires of him or her regarding this issue.
- E. We Christians must be ready at all times to defend the grand institution affectionately known as marriage.
- F. If the church is going to remain strong, individual marriages must be founded upon the rock (Matt.7:24-25).

II.THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

- A. One cannot find the true meaning of marriage in Webster’s dictionary.
- B. Webster defines marriage as “a relation between husband and wife...any close or intimate union.”
- C. The only reliable source regarding the meaning of marriage is the one who created it.
- D. God created this institution and set the boundaries concerning it (Gen.2).
- E. Marriage has prerequisites attached to it:
 - 1. One should/must have his own home or dwelling (v.8).
 - 2. The man should be gainfully employed (vv.15-16).
 - 3. Marriage is governed solely by God’s law (vv.16-17).
 - 4. Both parties should possess the maturity or independence to leave behind parental influence or input or interference (v.24).
- F. Christ reiterated what constitutes a marriage (Matt.19:3).
 - 1. “Have ye not read” was a reference or an appeal to Bible authority; in other words, let us go back to what God has revealed on the subject.
 - 2. “That he which made them” means that they both were created in the image of God and have a godly purpose for their existence (Gen.1:26-27). Both are subject to God’s authority. Too, both should be treated equally.
 - 3. “At the beginning” takes the argument back beyond Moses’ law. Christ argues from the origin of marriage.
 - 4. “Made them male and female” reveals their uniqueness or distinctive features. Also, this statement attacks the wickedness of homosexual and lesbian perversions (Gen.18; Rom.1:20-27).
- G. Interestingly, John the Baptist told the two Gentiles who were living in adultery what God’s word had to say about the matter (Matt.14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29).
 - 1. John was preaching at the same time the Pharisees were teaching (Matt.23:1-4).
 - 2. Even under the O.T., God required that the Jews spoke the same thing or taught one law (Exd.12:49; Num.15:16, 29).
 - 3. John and Jesus taught the same thing concerning marriage, divorce, and re-marriage.
 - 4. Both argued from God’s law from the beginning. Jesus said that the Jew was subject to this law; John taught that the Gentile was subject to the same law in the same manner.
 - 5. The Pharisees were apparently teaching the opposite.