

Study 0074

Genesis 2:18-25

Having ended our study on worship, we today begin a new series: “CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE”. The study on marriage is essential and very relevant because we are living in strange times where the true meaning of life’s concepts and issues are becoming blurred; marriage being one of such issues. Marriage is being re-defined in ways that reveal the depravity of the unsanctified/sinful mind. For example, the definition of marriage is now being given legal force to include some relationships which are not only contrary to the word of God, but which are also against nature itself.

For example, in various societies today, marriage is being re-defined as:

- The coming together of a man and more than one woman.
- The coming together of a woman and more than one man.
- The coming together of a man and a woman without any formal agreement or covenant before many witnesses.
- The coming together of a man and a woman with a pre-nuptial arrangement such that assets individually owned before their coming together remain theirs individually on one hand; and to take care of any sharing arrangement of assets acquired after their coming together, when (not if) there is a divorce.
- The coming together of a man who has once been married, but is now divorced from his wife; and a woman who may have never been married, or who may herself have been divorced.
- The coming together of a man and a woman who are living together for the purpose of enjoying sex and even procreating without ‘any strings’ attached.
- The coming together of a man and a man.
- The coming together of a woman and a woman.

The examples above are not exhaustive, but may manifest in various forms, in various cultures, and even religions. This has prompted us to, therefore, use the term “Christian Marriage” to distinguish the marriage ordained and intended by God, from other forms of marriage practiced by men and women, whether or not they call themselves ‘Christians’.

Christian marriage is not just a ‘coming together’ of any two people, but, a joining together of a man and a woman in an inseparable union until death do they part (**Romans 7:1-4**). True Christian marriage can thus be described as the unbreakable union between (or, the ‘fusion’ of) a man and a woman in holy matrimony, without the option of divorce. Indeed, only death can separate those in a Christian marriage. Even the most horrendous adverse conditions should not be able to separate them (**Romans 8:35-39**). The reality of Christian marriage is that it is fashioned after Christ and the Church (**Ephesians 5:22-33**). If Christ cannot divorce the Church, so also, the believer cannot put away his/her spouse. Thus, Christian marriage requires that the Parties concerned, that is, the man and the woman, be spiritually mature (**Hebrews 5:13-14; Ephesians 4:13-14; Romans 12:2**), before even entering into marriage.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Do you know of other forms of marriage? Please state them.

2. What is, and what is not, the origin of marriage? (**Genesis 2:18; Matthew 19:7-8; 15:3**)

3. Following from Nos. 1 & 2 above, where should we then turn to in order to obtain the truth about marriage? And where should we avoid turning to for counsel on marriage? (**Matthew 15:3, 9; Mark 10:2-9; Psalm 1:1-2**)

4. What makes a true marriage? (**Genesis 2:24-25; 1 Corinthians 6:16; Romans 7:1-4; Matthew 19:3-9**)

Conclusion

Marriage is not the idea of _____, _____, _____,
or _____. It is _____ idea, and as such we must turn to
_____ to know more about marriage.