

MARRIAGE: SEMPER REFORMANDA HEB.13:4

Semper Fi(delis) = Always Faithful Semper Reformanda = Always Reforming

Why is this necessary?

A. Cultural pressure:

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **1 Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **1 Timothy 4:3** **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **1 Timothy 4:4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **1 Timothy 4:5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

B. Family background:

Think growing up in Jacob's family...

Or David's or Solomon's family...

Or,

C. Personal strengths & weaknesses⁺

D. Zeitgeist (era): the spirit of the age

1920s: The Flapper Age

1929~ - 1960s: The Family generation: marriage, family, stability

1960s-1970s: lost Bible, prayer and gained no-fault divorce

2017 Marriage? What marriage?

Semper Reformanda = back to the Scripture & back to God's original intent

I. Semper Reformanda concerning the basis of marriage!

Why do we marry?

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love** your wives, **even as** Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men **to love** their wives **as their own bodies**. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular **so love his wife even as himself**; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine,

teachers of good things; **Titus 2:4** That they may teach the young women to be sober, **to love their husbands, to love their children,**

Titus 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

What is the Biblical basis? Love and mutual affection

The man who started the reformation also started the reformation of marriage! He revolutionized marriage – but he probably never intended to do so!

Karlstadt: Christmas day 1521

December 26, 1521 Anna Von Mochau

1522 On Monastic Vows by Luther

June 13, 1525 Katharina von Bora

Marriage had always been about:

Social status	Dowries
Power	Money
Connections	

Now it was about love!

“The first love is drunken. When the intoxication wears off, then comes the real marriage love.	“Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.
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Kitty, my rib! My Lord Kate! Doctor Katherine! Kette!!!

II. Semper Reformanda concerning the (spiritual) status of marriage

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **1 Timothy 4:2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **1 Timothy 4:3** **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats**, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **1 Timothy 4:4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **1 Timothy 4:5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

What is the status of marriage?

A. OK?

B. Necessary evil?

C. Sinful

Augustine +++ thought sex was a necessary evil. OK for procreation.

But just OK!!! Any pleasure was sinful.

D. Lesser status?

There was always an understanding &/ discussion ranking of status:

1 st : Celibacy	2 nd : Widowhood	3 rd : Marriage but celibate
4 th : Polygamy?	4 th / 5 th : Marriage not celibate	6 th : Fornication &/ adultery

The Roman Catholics still teach this. Around 1875, along came the Keswick Movement

No sex	No desires	No passion
No lust	No enjoyment	No light
Buttoned down and buttoned up and always pious!		

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Not sinful	Not lesser	Not God's second-best
Honorable	Honorable in all	Bed = Coitus & → no guilt
All sexual intimacy is good Within marriage	God's original intent from the beginning	

III. Semper Reformanda concerning the functioning of marriage!

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

Genesis 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; **but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.**

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, **submit** yourselves unto your own husbands, **as** unto the Lord. **Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. **Ephesians 5:24** **Therefore** as the church is subject unto Christ, **so** let the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Ephesians 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;**

Ephesians 5:28 **So** ought men to love their wives **as** their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. **Ephesians 5:33** Nevertheless let every one of you in particular **so** love his wife **even as** himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

Marriage functions at its peak when there is:

- Meeting needs
- Mutual submission
- Wife's submission to husband (not men in general)
- Husband loves wife as...