

THE CYCLE OF LIFE (3)

“Is your church a “dating church” or a “Biblical church?”

This issue wasn't really the issue – issues rarely are the issue!

The question that so much preoccupied the individual was really “how does one find a spouse?”

I. The **accumulation and evaluation of evidence!**

Many people don't need this step...they have a verse of two...or God told them...or the Holy Spirit led them...or they are standing for the truth...!

For the rest of us mere mortals:

- Read the Bible
- Read all the Bible
- Read all the Bible several times!
- Read the Bible searching for those texts that ask & answer your question!
- Carefully examine those texts!
- Read what other Christians have found, thought, concluded...

1. Marriage is good

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing (כִּי לֹא אֶצְרֶה אִשָּׁה אֶצְרֶה טוֹב),
And obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage (Τῆμος ὁ γάμος) is honourable in all (ἐν πᾶσι),
and the bed (ἡ κοίτη) undefiled (ἀμίαντος):
but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

2. Marriage is not the **only** good!

Matthew 19:10 His disciples say unto him, **If** the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. **Matthew 19:11** But he said unto them, **All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given**. **Matthew 19:12** For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. **He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.**

1 Corinthians 7:6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. **1 Corinthians 7:7** For I would that all men were even as I myself. **But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that**. **1 Corinthians 7:8** I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, **It is good** for them if they abide even as I. **1 Corinthians 7:9** **But if** they cannot contain, let them marry: **for it is better to marry than to burn**.

1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. **1 Corinthians 7:28** But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

3. Marriage is good not better or the best!

[Marriage is good not worse or worst!]

4. Marriage is good for most people!

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman**. **1 Corinthians 7:2** **Nevertheless**, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

5. Marriage is good **only** in the Lord/ the faith

This can be painful but must be heard!

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, **she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.** **1 Corinthians 7:40** But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye **not** unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **2 Corinthians 6:15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? **2 Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **2 Corinthians 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, **2 Corinthians 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Deuteronomy 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; **Deuteronomy 7:2** And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Deuteronomy 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. **Deuteronomy 7:4** For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. **Deuteronomy 7:5** But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

1 Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; **1 Kings 11:2** Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. **1 Kings 11:3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. **1 Kings 11:4** For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. **1 Kings 11:5** For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. **1 Kings 11:6** And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Nehemiah 13:25 And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. **Nehemiah 13:26** Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. **Nehemiah 13:27** Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives?