

Social Issues (Part 1)

Marriage & Society

- Introduction:
1. The church of Christ is not immune from being infected by contemporary social issues of the day.
 2. There are a number of social issues that are adversely affecting our society and also affecting the Lord's church.
 3. One of those areas is within the divine institution of marriage.
 4. Marriage is one of three divine institutions which God created and intended for mankind's good.
 - a. Home (Genesis 2:18).
 - b. Government (Romans 13:1-7).
 - c. Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
 5. When any of these institutions are abused, the result is always harmful to mankind.
 6. This lesson examines three contemporary challenges to the divine institution of marriage.

I. Challenge: Dispensable Marriages

- A. Cohabitation and out-of-wedlock childbearing are two of our fastest growing family configurations today.
- B. Marriage is no longer an assumed requirement for having a family.
- C. Since 1960, cohabitation has increased by 1000%.
- D. (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2).

II. Challenge: Disposable Marriages

- A. Many today have lost the ideal of marital permanence and "till death do us part."
- B. Divorce rates have skyrocketed in our generation.
- C. Two problems with failed marriages:
 1. Divorce (Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
 2. Adultery (Matthew 19:9).

III. Challenge: Definition of Marriage

- A. Our culture is entertaining a discussion that no other age or civilization has undertaken: i.e. to redefine marriage as a union between members of the same sex.
- B. However, marriage is not rooted in culture, but in the mind of God and is not to be trifled with without paying a price.
- C. (Genesis 2:24).

- Conclusion:
1. If we, as God's children, don't embrace and proclaim God's truth on this important issue, our homes, and our society will suffer.
 2. If God's institution is honored, man will be blessed; however if it is perverted, we will suffer at our own hands.