

Why Marriage ?

Part 2

Ephesians 5:1-4 [NIV] *“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.**”*

Not only are we to guard against immorality but we are to be thankful for the institution of marriage in which we can learn and practice all that brings unity to the whole of humanity, as well as the Church.

Ephesians 5:5-7 [NIV] *“For of this you can be sure: **No immoral, impure or greedy person, such a man is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.”*

A very strong warning from our Creator.

Ephesians 5:21-24 [NIV] *“**Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.** Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”*

A wife has the advantage in a physical marriage **by being submissive to her husband**, how we all as a Church must be submissive in all things to Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-30 [NIV] *“**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church, for we are members of his body.”*

What an awesome responsibility is on the shoulders of a husband.

To love his wife in the same way Christ loves the Church.

A **sacrificial love** for his wife that will help her to be ready to marry Christ.

A husband’s life-long job is to help his wife become radiant, without stain, unwrinkled, without blemish, holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:31 [NIV] *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”*

Here we are back where we started in the Adamic covenant.

We have concentrated on the marriage covenant and the union of husband and wife in marriage.

Can we now understand why in particular does God condemn fornication, adultery or any sexual act other than that between husband and wife.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 [NIV] *“Do you not know that the wicked will **not inherit the kingdom** of God? Do not be deceived: **Neither the sexually immoral** nor idolaters nor **adulterers** nor **male prostitutes** nor **homosexual** offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

We have been cleansed and made righteous by Christ’s blood and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Nowhere in God’s Word is there a division of the three areas of our existence, the soul [mind], spirit and body. We cannot separate what our mind and body do.

We cannot sin in the body and still expect to be accepted in the Kingdom of God.

Throughout God’s Word physical adultery is paralleled with spiritual adultery against God.

Our conversion starts in our spirit, that influences our mind [soul] and the body is controlled by the mind.

Physical sexual immorality is the end product of our unconverted mind, that is lacking the influence of a close walk with the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:12 [NIV] *“Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything.”*

We have free choice, to use the mind to direct our body with or without the influence of the Holy Spirit.

We have to ask the question, *“Who is influencing my mind, is it my body’s fleshly desires or the union of my spirit with the Holy Spirit?”*

Romans 8:5-9 [NIV] *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.** You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”*

Paul was determined that the influence of his body’s desires was **not** going to rule his choices for he already knew that he was **led by the Holy Spirit** not driven by him.

1 Corinthians 6:13 [Message Bible] *“You know the old saying, ‘First you eat to live, and then you live to eat’! Well, it may be true that the body is only a temporary thing, but that’s no excuse for stuffing your body with food, or indulging it with sex. Since the Master honours you with a body, honour Him with your body.”*

How we use our body is an indication of who influences our mind and decisions.

1 Corinthians 6:14-15 [Message Bible] *“God honoured the Master’s [Jesus Christ] body by raising it from the grave. He will treat yours with the same resurrection power. Until that time remember that your bodies are created with the same dignity as the Master’s body. You wouldn’t take the Master’s body off to a whorehouse, would you? I should hope not.”*

Our physical body is to be a part of the body of Christ here on earth, part of His Church.

Christ is the head of that body and owns each part of that body.

Acts 20:28 [NIV] *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, **which he bought with his own blood.**”*

We are purchased slaves of Christ, the Church as a whole, but also each of us individually.

We must be careful not to use what belongs to Christ as if it were our own.

Our bodies will be raised and glorified as Christ was, so we do not raise them with sin but seek to keep them pure.

When we are united with Christ [Christ in us through presence of Holy Spirit] it is the whole person that is involved.

Christ dwells in our spirit, soul [mind] and physical body.

We don't allow our body to go where Christ would not want to go, or unite our body with one within whom Christ does not dwell also.

1 Corinthians 6:16-20 [Message Bible] *“**There's more to sex than skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact.** As written in Scripture, ‘The two become one.’ Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, **we must not pursue** the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever – **the kind of sex that can never ‘become one’.** There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, for ‘becoming one’ with another. Or didn't you realise that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.”*

The lifestyle God had chosen for Paul and he had accepted was not conducive to a stable marriage, home and raising of children.

1 Corinthians 7:1 [NIV] *“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man **not** to marry.”*

So if God uses a person like He did Paul marriage is not advisable.

1 Corinthians 7:2 [NIV] *“But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.”*

God designed the comforts and satisfactions of the marriage state to assist in the prevention of fornication [sex outside of marriage].

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 [Message Bible] *“**Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provided for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder.** The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality, the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to ‘stand up for your rights’. Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting, but only for such times, then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it.”*

Paul limits what he stated about every man should marry, **not** making it binding on a Christian.

1 Corinthians 7:6-7 [Message Bible] *“Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me, a simpler life in many ways! **But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage.** God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of married life to others.”*

1 Corinthians 7:10 [Message Bible] *“If you are married, stay married. This is the Master's command...”*

Israel was as a nation married to their Creator God but failed miserably to fulfil her side of this marriage covenant.

Jeremiah 3:14 [NIV] *“Return, faithless people [Israel] declares the Lord, for I am your husband...”*

Ezekiel 16:32 [NIV] *“You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband!”*

Ezekiel 16:59-63 [NIV] *“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant. **Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.** Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed when you receive your sisters, both those who are older than you and those who are younger. I will give them to you as daughters, but not on the basis of my covenant with you. **So I will establish my covenant with you, and you will know that I am the LORD.** Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign LORD.”*

Because of the great love Christ had for His future bride He makes a new marriage covenant with her and seals it with His loving death and blood sacrifice.

Christ’s death ended the old marriage covenant, so He could marry again.

Christ’s poured out blood atones for all of spiritual Israel’s [which includes our] past adultery and prostitution, our sins against our Creator God.

Accepting Christ’s death and blood sacrifice is our acceptance of our betrothal to Christ, our lifelong job is to prepare for our future marriage, within our present physical marriage.

This is the answer to the question *“Why Marriage?”*