

Marriage ordained by God

Eve was a gracious gift of God to fill a need of which Adam had just become aware. *“Therefore, a man will leave his father and his mother. He will be united with his wife and they will become one flesh,”* (Genesis 2:24).

With Eve’s creation and presentation to Adam, God established marriage. The first two purposes for marriage were given already in the Garden of Eden. The first purpose of marriage is companionship. Adam needed a companion, and his wife was to be that companion. He was created first and was by divine arrangement to be the head in that union. In the course of carrying out his role as head with her as his companion, he would also be her companion. The second purpose of marriage is the bearing of children. It is included as a primary purpose of marriage in the summary account of Genesis 1:28.

The husband who is too busy with his work or his friends to be a companion to his wife and the wife who is too busy with her own life and pursuits to be a companion to her husband miss a primary purpose and intention of God in the institution of marriage. Likewise, couples who do not want to be bothered with children because they will just get in the way of things the couple considers of greater importance miss the second major purpose of marriage.

Those who recklessly ignore and frustrate God’s intentions for marriage should not imagine that God is indifferent to their misplaced priorities. Nor should they think that God blesses their flaunting of His purposes of companionship and children for their marriage. To be sure, there are times when physical or mental or genetic problems may place limitations on the happy fulfillment of these purposes, but when there are no such limitations beyond the choice or control of the husband and wife, then the purposes of marriage that God gave already in the garden should be accepted with thanksgiving to God. God out of love has given husband and wife to each other with these purposes in mind. As with every institution that God has established (i.e., the family, the church, and the state), it is in the carrying out of God’s intentions and purposes that those institutions are blessed and are a blessing.

Yes, and in spite of the many and perverse notions to the contrary that are popular these days, marriage is a divine institution intended for a man and a woman. “Marriage” for members of the same sex is not only a contradiction in terms but an abomination in the eyes of God. Paul writes, *“²⁴ Therefore God has handed them over to uncleanness, in the sinful desires of their hearts, to degrade their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They have exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and have worshipped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen! ²⁶ For this reason, God has handed them over to shameful passions. For even their females have exchanged their natural function for what is unnatural. ²⁷ Similarly, the males have also abandoned the natural function of the female and have been inflamed with lust for one another. Males have committed shameful acts with other males and have received in themselves the penalty that they have deserved for their error. ²⁸ As they have not seen fit to retain a true knowledge of God, God has also handed them over to an unfit mind, to do things that ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice,”* (Romans 1:24-29). Nor is God the least bit interested in any polls taken among us that contradict him. It is always the business of the creature to listen to the Creator, not to imagine that the Creator needs the advice, much less correction, from the creature.