

### **Pouring Concrete: Marriage and Its Sexual Union**

Heb 12<sup>4</sup> *Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

► Ch13 is developing the central command of ch12, which is to \_\_\_\_\_ God thru Christ in the midst of a world that is breaking apart because it is built on sand. Thru worship & obedience, we are to build on the rock of Christ and his Word. Ch13 hits on \_\_\_ areas where we are to have transformed lives in contrast to the idolatrous culture around us. This is crucial to worship & \_\_\_\_\_.

Today we address the 2<sup>nd</sup> of those areas—Marriage and Its Sexual Union.

► Our text is saying is that God’s gift of marriage and its sexual union must be \_\_\_\_\_ like a precious gemstone by all people, starting with God’s people.

► “Marriage” & “bed” = God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage & the sexual union within it.

*Gen 2<sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man ...  
24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

*Gen 1<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; ... male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them and ... said, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it*

*Cf. Job 38<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ...  
7 When ... all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*

- The 1<sup>st</sup> secret to understanding the Bible is, whenever God does something unnecessary, ask, “ \_\_\_\_\_?”
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> secret is realizing that everything God does in the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Rom 9<sup>5</sup> ... the eternally blessed God.*

*Acts 17<sup>25</sup> “as though He needed anything”*

*Job 22<sup>2</sup> “Can a man be profitable to God? ...  
3 Is it ... gain to Him that you make your ways blameless?”*

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> secret is realizing that the answer to, “Why?”, is always, “It’s a \_\_\_\_\_, and it’s for \_\_\_\_\_!”

*Acts 17<sup>25</sup> “He gives to all life, breath, and all things ...  
28 [and] in Him we live and move and have our being”*

*Eph 3<sup>18</sup> [that you] may be able to comprehend with all the saints ... the width and length and depth and height —  
19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Rom 8<sup>16</sup> we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ*

*1Cor 3<sup>21</sup> all things are yours: 22 whether ... the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.  
23 And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.*

► “Honorable” = \_\_\_\_\_ like a precious gem

*Rev 21<sup>19</sup> The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: ... sapphire, ... emerald*

► Examples of the priceless value of God’s gift:

1) The marital/sexual union reflects the spiritual union with \_\_\_\_\_ that we were created & redeemed for.

*Eph 5<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church ... 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ...  
31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

2) The marital/sexual union gives us the privilege of learning to \_\_\_\_\_ like God does.

► “Undefiled” = pure, clean, holy in \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.

*Heb 7<sup>26</sup> It was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, ... exalted above the heavens*

► Why would God's gift need to be protected?

kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you.

*1Tim 4 <sup>1</sup> some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup>... forbidding to marry*

► "Fornicators" = those who misuse or mistreat God's gift in \_\_\_\_\_ way (any form of sexual immorality). "Adulterers" = a husband or wife who violates the union.

► What about in the early church?

► The construction of vs4 in the Greek indicates that the verse functions as both a statement of fact and as a \_\_\_\_\_ to make it so.

*1Cor 5 <sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, ... that a man has his father's wife ... <sup>7</sup> <sup>1</sup> Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ... <sup>3</sup> Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup> The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

► Why is God zealous to judge sexual sin? Because of the priceless value of the gift being trampled, and because of the two kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ God created us for — spiritually toward the one true God forever, and sexually toward one member of the opposite sex for life. God has created an unbreakable link between spirituality and sexuality.

► Paul's words in 1Cor 7.3-4 remind us that prizing the sexual union within marriage does not mean a Victorian "prim and proper," but a biblical "enthusiastic and \_\_\_\_\_."

► What three things dominated Roman culture:

1) Anything goes \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Anything goes \_\_\_\_\_.

3) The confession of Caesar as \_\_\_\_\_, bringer of grace and peace to the world.

► The Christians responded by worshiping only the one true \_\_\_\_\_, prizing his design for \_\_\_\_\_ only within marriage, and confessing Jesus alone as \_\_\_\_\_.

► How do these things apply to us and our current situation?

► Was God's gift of marriage & the sexual union prized and protected in Roman culture?

*1Cor 6 <sup>9</sup> Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the*