

## What is God's main purpose of marriage?

Thank you for participating in the Teleios marriage survey. We at Teleios love scripture! The purpose of the Teleios Foundation is to convey the truth of scripture and its benefit to our lives.

Marriage is a foundational institution in our society as it replenishes the country's population which help maintain our freedoms in the next generation. It also provides an important social unit for the function of society in providing order and helping the weak in society; the poor, children and the elderly. Marriage additionally assists its participants; numerous studies have shown the benefit of traditional marriage on personal wellbeing, health, longevity, and finances.

Marriage also represents an important entry into society for married couples. Emotionally, marriage provides love, acceptance, intimacy and children. As important as these attributes are regarding marriage, spiritually it is even more important. The Bible describes the main purpose of Christian marriage as *demonstrating to society the precious relationship between Christ and the church* (Ephesians 5:21-33). Stated another way, it is primarily an evangelical tool (Ephesians 5:21-32)!

Wow! Why is this, considering all the other important reasons for marriage? Please consider the following:

- *God's goals* - God's plans are greater than our own and His plan is to sum up all history in Christ (Ephesians 1:10-11). Consequently, viewing marriage and its purpose within the overall construct of God's plan is important and appropriate. God wants all people to come to know Him and so marriage is primarily evangelical as we demonstrate Christ's loving relationship to the church.
- *Importance to us* - However, considering marriage as a witness to society, it is also vital to our own marriage relationships as it reminds us that we were married for God's purposes and not primarily for our own desires such as: sex, a wonderful marriage ceremony, and having children (as wonderful as they are).

Remembering God's goal in marriage also minimizes whatever expectations for marriage we might possess such as how the kitchen is arranged, who mows the lawn, and who pays the bills.

- *Defines the relationship* - Knowing that the purpose of marriage is to reflect Christ and the church reminds us that as we primarily serve Christ and our spouse. Otherwise, we leave and cleave from our prior families and our priorities are clearly our beloved marriage partner and God (Ephesians 5:31-32).

How then does marriage reflect the relationship between Christ and the church?

- The love between a man and a woman reflects the love Christ and the church have for each other.
- The love of the husband, and his complete devotion to his wife, reflects the love and devotion of Christ to the church.
- The submission of the wife for the man reflects the submission of the church to Christ.  
The prescribed order of people and institutions in the Bible is important not only for the function of society, but for the church and family as well (I Timothy 2:1-4). It is within the confines of order that the gospel best goes forward to bring people to Christ.
- This combination of order, love and devotion provide a productive, caring picture to society of what Christ does for the church. Marriage should attract people to the gospel.

Marriage is a wonderful institution that God has ordained and provides marvelous benefits to the church, society and individuals. However, at its highest purpose is an evangelical tool that God uses to attract people to the gospel.

Below are the noted survey responses that are affirmed by scripture for Christians. We received 321 responses. Scriptural answers are noted by \*\*\*

### What's the primary purpose of marriage for Christians?

- Produce children
- Allow for a splendid wedding ceremony to introduce a couple into Christian society
- Sex
- Represent the relationship between Christ and the church\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:20-33)
- Love between a man and a woman

- Continue the human race and/or populate the world

### **What are the biblical principles of Christian marriage?**

- The wife submits to her husband\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- The wife reverences her husband\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Husband has just one wife\*\*\* (1 Timothy 3:2)
- The husband loves his wife as Christ loves the church\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Husband nurtures his wife\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Husband presents his wife pure before God\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Husband cleaves to His wife and leaves his birth family\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Husband loves himself when he loves his wife\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Wife does what he her husband says
- Wife cleaves to the husband
- The husband and wife submit to each other in accordance to God's word\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Sex, unless both are in prayer for a short time\*\*\* (1 Corinthians 7:2-9)
- Continue the human race and/or populate the world
- Biblical principles no longer apply in this modern age

### **What are biblical principles in raising children for a Christian couple?**

- The children submit to their parents\*\*\* (Colossians 3:20-21; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- Fathers don't provoke their children to strife or generalized anger\*\*\* (Colossians 3:20-21; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- Children should do chores
- Fathers, raise the children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord\*\*\* (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- Fathers, not mothers, are responsible for disciplining children
- Spare the rod, spoil the child
- Children should honor their parents\*\*\* (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- Older children should help with the younger children
- Raise godly children\*\*\* (Ephesians 6:1-4)

**God's prescribed order in the Christian community is to allow the gospel to more easily go forward and includes: subjection to local and federal officials, our employers and elders in the church. In the family, God's order includes which of the following:**

- The wife submits to her husband\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Children submit to their parents\*\*\* (Colossians 3:20-21; Ephesians 6:1-4)
- The wife submits to God\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Children submit to all adults, not just parents
- The husband submits to God\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- The husband and wife submit to each other in obedience to God's word\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- The wife should not act without direction from her husband
- The husband is responsible for the relationship before God\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- The wife submits to all men, not just her husband
- Adult children submit to their parents

### **Can God's will in marriage be fulfilled by marrying an unbeliever or a very immature believer?**

- Yes, the more mature Christian partner can change the unbelieving or immature partner
- Not likely, the unbelieving or immature partner will resist and drag down the believing partner\*\*\* (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
- Not likely, Christ and the church cannot be demonstrated when one partner is not actively practicing their faith\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Yes, the symbolism of the marriage ceremony and children is sufficient

### **How does marriage allow people to understand the relationship between Christ and the church?**

- The prescribed order in marriage\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- The couple's love for each other and their children\*\*\* (1 John 4:8-11)

- The couple's mutual service to God\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- Having children
- The marriage ceremony\*\*\* (Revelation 19:17-19)
- Spreading God's love, the gospel and teaching other people\*\*\* (Acts 2:42.47)
- Encouraging and teaching each other\*\*\* (Acts 2:42.47)

### **How do I know that I found the right Christian marriage partner?**

- God has a soulmate for each of us and He will direct me to the right person.
- Love at first sight
- I will just know
- I prepare myself to recognize a godly marriage partner by becoming a godly person myself\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:15-20)
- Good looks
- Good genetic makeup

### **How do I prepare myself for Christian marriage?**

- No needed beyond waiting to meet the "right one"
- Become a godly person myself so I attract a godly partner\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:15-20)
- Become a godly person myself so I am worthy of a godly partner\*\*\* (Ephesians 5:15-20)
- Learn God's word in an ongoing process\*\*\*
- Practice the Christian faith in: praise, prayer, fellowship, outreach, and Bible study\*\*\*
- Perform godly activities where I can meet a godly marriage partner\*\*\*
- Just be myself