

Why Am I Really Saying “I Do?”

Matt. 19:4-6

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

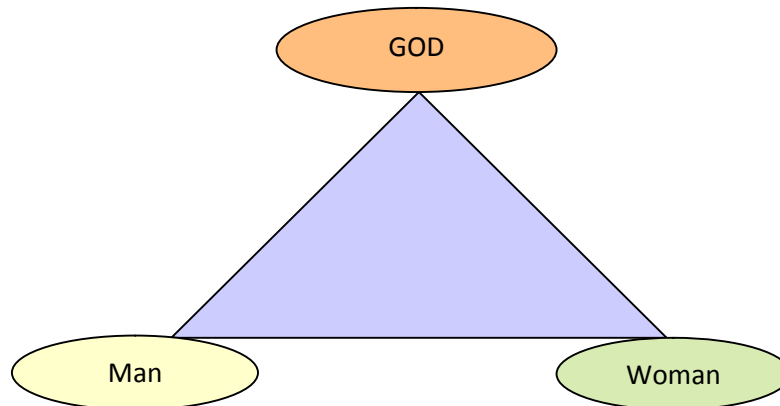
Introduction

Marriage is a serious matter. Saying "I Do" in a marriage ceremony is the second most important commitment or decision one can make in a lifetime. The first, of course, is one's commitment to God in obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Baptism unites us in a covenant relationship. Paul says in Rom. 6:4, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”*

We become, in a sense, married to Christ. That relationship is to last until death. *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).*

I. **Saying "I Do"** is such an act of connection that Jesus says in Matt. 19:4-6, that the two become one flesh. Both, the man and woman, must have their own personal relationship with God. Same sex marriage is not just wrong, but according to Rom. 1:26-28, it's sinful: *“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”*

A. They both must form a triangle-type relationship with God and each other.



B. This allows God to be in the center and totally connected to their lives.

II. When the triangle is formed, the following will come easily:

A. Both partners will submit themselves to each other and will esteem the other better than themselves: *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3) and “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Eph. 5:21).*

B. There must be mutual respect for each other. Read Eph. 5:21(see above). The woman must have a certain level of respect for the man, given that he is the head of his house and has the green light to rule.* See 1 Cor. 11:3: *“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”* and Eph. 5:23-24: *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*

*Rule in this context does not mean to be a tyrant, but to protect and care for.

C. The woman also has an important role, because one of her responsibilities is to guide or direct the house. Notice what Paul says in 1 Tim. 5:11-14: *“But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”* Read Prov. 31:10-31.

D. The man must earn the respect of his wife as did Abraham from Sarah. This respect was even mentioned by Peter and Paul. Notice Peter's words in 1 Peter 3:6: *“Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”* Paul echoes the sentiment in Eph. 5:33: *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”*

E. The man must love his wife as Christ loved the Church. That love manifested in

Christ giving His life, His precious blood for the Church: *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).* Also see Eph. 5:25: *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”*

F. The man must also love his wife as he loves his own body according to Eph. 5:28-29: *“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.”* Given all the above, am I really ready to say, "I Do" with no hesitations?

We must not doubt or stagger like Abraham in Rom. 4:18-22: *“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”*

III. The point is often made, "No one is perfect. She is not perfect and neither am I."

The Word of God (when obeyed) can make us perfect or mature. Notice 2 Tim. 3:16-17: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* To make a marriage work, each person must have the necessary basic qualities for a healthy marriage. They need to be well-rounded or complete prior to marriage and not look for the marriage to make them happy. The incomplete one could derail the complete one.

IV. The following are some reasons why people say "I Do":

Reason: It has been a long-term investment, and I have too much to lose to turn back now. I cannot even begin to think of starting over with someone else.

Reply: Do not worry about the investment. God can bless you beyond what you lost: *“So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses” (Job 42:12).* Also Eph. 3:20: *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*

Reason: We have been living together for a while, and it does not look good. We get along fairly well, so marriage is a good option.

Reply: Living together does not only look bad, it is a sin. Notice what Jesus says to the Samaritan woman in John 4:15-19: *“The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.”*

The Hebrew writer states in 13:4, *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”* Also, 1 Cor. 7:1-5: *“Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”*

Reason: My biological clock is ticking. In other words, I'm getting older, and there seem to be few prospects in sight or in my world.

Reply: Trust God that He will supply all your needs. Read Phil. 4:19: *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* and also Prov. 3:3-6, *“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

God sometimes saves the best for last: *“And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now”* (John 2:8-10). Learn to wait on God, and He will renew your strength. Notice Isa. 40:28-31: *“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Reason: I have a low self-esteem. I feel as though I will not find anyone better than the person I am presently dating.

Reply: You must learn to love yourself as well as forgive yourself. Do not marry at the level of your self-esteem, but marry at your self-worth. You are worth the world to God. God really loves you. You are made in His image according to Gen. 1:27 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* You are special according to Ps. 139:14 *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."*

V. Eight things to consider prior to getting married:

1. Do I love this person enough to spend the rest of my life with them?
A. Yes B. No C. Not sure
2. How many children do we plan on having, if any? Do we both agree on when, how many, etc.?
3. What are the spending and saving habits of both persons? Also who will be the primary financial person?
4. What are the career goals of each partner? Will these goals have a strain on our relationship of growing and glowing together?
5. What would be the sexual adjustment for each partner? Will we have problems with due benevolence as presented in 1 Cor. 7:1-4?
6. What about my religion as well as my partner's? Do we share the same faith?

Do I love God more than my mate? Does my mate love God more than me? Read Matt. 10:34-37: *“He that loveth father or mother more than is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”*

7. What about our in-laws?

Are we really “leaving and cleaving” according to Gen. 2:24:

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

8. What about our peers? Will we consider associating with married couples more than our former single friends?

Conclusion:

We hope that the above information has helped you to consider why you're really saying "I do." Pray about these questions and more. Please be honest with yourself and your partner. Remember, God knows your heart. May God bless you with the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

Dr. Herbert Moore
Church of Christ at Atlanta Airport Area
3300 Old Jonesboro Rd.
Hapeville, GA 30354
Email: dr.herbertmoore@gmail.com