

May 12, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE

In our day marriage has fallen on hard times. It is no longer viewed as necessary in a relationship by many people. The number of couples who have decided to live together without the commitment of marriage continues to grow. One recent news headline read, "Living together without getting married is the 'new' norm." The National Center for Health Statistics reported that for almost half of women ages 15-44 their "first union" was cohabitation rather than marriage. Cohabitation is defined as "the state of living together and having a sexual relationship without being married." Is such a relationship acceptable to God? Read God's answer in Hebrews 13:4, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

God says that marriage is honorable, that is, worthy of honor. God instituted the marriage relationship at the very beginning of man's existence when He declared, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24) Jesus quoted this very passage and then added, "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:5-6). God intends the marriage of a man and woman to last a lifetime (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10).

In marriage, the bed is undefiled. This is an obvious reference to the sexual relationship. Sex in marriage is a beautiful expression of the intimate and unique love that is to exist between husband and wife. It is something that is shared only between the two. Sex with someone other than one's own legitimate spouse is adultery. Sex outside of the bond of marriage is fornication. According to the Word of God those who engage in fornication and adultery are under God's condemnation. Both adultery and fornication are included in the list of the "works of the flesh" and those who commit these sins are lost and will not go to heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). This is your state before God if you are living together without being marriage or if you are engaging in a sexual relationship with someone other than your husband or wife. As sex in marriage is honorable and undefiled, sex outside of marriage is dishonorable and defiled. It is not surprising that God tells us in 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

How people view the marriage relationship does not change God's view. God says marriage is worthy of honor. To dishonor the marriage relationship by engaging in the sins of adultery and fornication is to violate God's divine will and thus to sin (1 John 3:4). Let us honor the marriage relationship by recognizing its worth to couples and to society and by conforming to the will of God in our own relationships. Visit gbntv.org.