

## **THE SURE WORD**

**By Jonnie Hutchison**

### **MARRIAGE**

Marriage has fallen on hard times in our day. It has been estimated that more than half of all marriages end in divorce. It is not unusual to find those who have been “married” multiple times. Many couples today are rejecting marriage altogether choosing instead to live together without forming a committed marriage relationship. This used to be called “shacking up” and was frowned upon by the majority but now it has become socially acceptable to a great many.

God instituted the marriage relationship at the very beginning when He created the first man and the first woman. His original plan is stated in the words of Genesis 2:24, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” This original plan for marriage one man and one woman for a lifetime, was in force from that time on. Jesus restated this original plan in Matthew 19:4-6, “And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate." Note that God’s original plan was marriage between male and female, not those of the same sex. Nowhere in the Bible does God grant approval for same-sex marriage but rather condemns sexual relations between those of the same sex (Romans 1:26-29). These words of Jesus also indicate that God joins together those who choose to enter a marriage relationship and thus, man has no right to separate what God has joined together.

The sexual relationship is lawful only in a scriptural marriage. The Bible reads, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4). Fornication and adultery are “works of the flesh” and engaging in these sins will keep one out of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). Sex outside of marriage IS a SIN! Whether one accepts this or not does not change the fact that fornicators and adulterers stand condemned in the sight of God.

A scriptural marriage relationship provides loving companionship, true happiness and the proper and most fulfilling place for intimacy. In addition, it provides stability to society, a haven and training ground for children, and a mutual commitment to one another that is absent in any other relationship. No wonder God gave us a plan for marriage. A plan that includes His presence so that married couples may truly be “heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Peter 3:7). Marriage is a blessing from God!

Please join us Sunday for worship: Classes 10 am Worship 10:45 am & 6 pm. Bible Study Wednesday at 7 pm.