

COMMITMENT IN MARRIAGE

1. Text: Matthew 19:3-9
2. The subject of this lesson is marriage. The particular focus will be on the most basic element in marriage: commitment.
3. Why is that so important to stress?

I. **Commitment In Marriage Is Contrary To Our Culture.**

1. Our society's theme: non-commitment.
2. Modern "throw away" world. Things and relationships
3. Easy divorce. No fault divorce. If it doesn't work out, so what? Try, try again.
4. Key: selfish, self-centered individuals: in marital problems either one or both are self-centered.
5. IAAM (It's all about me.)
6. After marriage seminars: more trouble. Why? Usually double burdens
7. A woman's story:
8. Instant gratification. I want what I want now!
9. Luke 9:23 To follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

II. **Commitment In Marriage Is At The Core Of The Vows**

1. Remember: "I take you...from this day forward...for better, for worse...for richer, for poorer...in sickness and in health...to love and to cherish...till death do us part...forsaking all others...keep yourself only for him/her.
2. For the young couple's vows: "Marriage is the total commitment of the total person for the total life."
3. "As long as we both shall live or love?" Final or fickle? Love is the greatest (I Corinthians 13:13) but also the most misused and twisted.
4. Agape love is a commitment of the will, a decision, choice, determination, which thinks and acts in certain ways. (I Corinthians 13:4-7)
5. Me and the receptionist at the hotel: What's the secret to 40 years?
6. Ephesians 5:28 Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.
7. Marriage is a covenant.
8. For the children's sake: commitment
9. India's arranged marriages: worse system than ours?
10. Young people, Listen!

III. **Commitment In Marriage Is The Point Of Matthew 19.**

1. The classic, extensive passage on marriage, divorce, remarriage. Notice its language:
2. Verse 5: leave parents.
3. "Be joined (literally, glued) to mate." (Verse 5)
4. "Become one flesh" (Verse 5) "No longer two, but one flesh" (Verse 6)
5. Verse 6: "What God has joined, let no man separate."
6. Verse 8: Because of the hard hearts of Jews, the old law permitted divorce, but it was really not meant to be.
7. Verse 9: Sexual immorality or fornication is the only permitted reason to divorce (or break the marriage commitment) and remarry another.
8. If fornication is not the issue, then the second relationship is an adulterous one in God's eyes. That's how strong our commitment should be.
9. What determines our view of all this? Our society or sympathies or Savior?

Conclusion: Marriage is a commitment.

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
Northwest Church of Christ - Sunday Morning, September 10, 2006

