GOD'S SIMPLE MARRIAGE RULE
Gen. 2:18-24

Introduction:
A. God's will on marriage is as basic as creation itself.
B. God's will on marriage needs to be considered from two angles:
   1. His basic rule for marriage.
   2. His rules for maintaining marriage.

Discussion:

II. God's Basic Rule of Marriage.
A. One woman for one man for life. (Rom. 7:1-3; Matt. 19:3-6).
B. Exception to this rule have been granted.
   1. Without Divine Approval.
      b. By Many Moderns - in and out of the church.
   2. With Divine Approval - Twice stated by Jesus - only one with right to make exception (cf. Matt. 18:20)
      (1) Matt. 5:31, 32.
         (a) Either causes or makes her an adulteress by temptation placed on her.
         (b) Or "makes her an adulteress" in sense of "making Him a liar" (cf.1 John 1:9)
         (c) In either case, the second marriage is adultery without the exception.
         (a) Question nor answer is not hard to understand.
         (b) Application may be hard on some. (cf. v.12).
C. After men have given all their reasons to the contrary, there is still only three kinds of people who can marry with it being adultery:
   1. One who has never been married.
   2. One who has been married, lost partner to death.
   3. An innocent party who has divorced a partner for fornication".

III. God's Basic Rules For a Good Marriage.
A. Love.
   1. Not Soap Opera or fairy tale variety.
   2. But, real love that can be taught, learned and cultivated. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19; Tit. 2:4)
   3. Love demonstrated by deeds. (1 Cor. 13:4-7; 1 John 3:18)
B. Peace.
   1. Wedding ring shouldn't be symbol of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
   2. Wedding bells should not signal beginning of round one.
   3. Wedding ceremonies can be followed by peace if:
      a. Will not let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
      b. Will work for peace. (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
      c. Will resist outside agitation of family and friends. ("Leave & Cleave")
C. **Consideration.**

1. **Make role of partner easy to fulfil.**
   a. **Wives make it easy for husband.**
      (1) To rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
      (2) To be a breadwinner. (1 Tim. 5:8)
   b. **Husbands make easy for wife.**
      (1) To submit and obey. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
      (2) To be a keeper at home. (Tit. 2:5)
   c. **Each makes other's parental role easy.**

2. **Attend to partner's basic needs.** (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
   a. Failure results in, but no excuse for infidelity and broken marriages.
   b. Failure often caused by being too busy with other things.

D. **Spirituality.**

1. **Mutual respect for God and His will makes a good marriage.**
2. **Bible re-enforces marital responsibility with spiritual motives.**
   a. Peace because GOD has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
   b. Love and submit like CHRIST and THE CHURCH. (Eph. 5)
   c. Behave lest WORD OF GOD be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
   d. Behave because it is a great price in GOD's sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
   e. Behave lest PRAYERS be hindered. (1 Pet. 5:7)

**Conclusion:**

E. **God has spoken on marriage.**
F. "Let God be true, and every man a liar".
G. **Let us be governed by what Bible says, not by what our emotions would like for it to say.**