Moral Marriages in an Immoral World
Heb. 13:4

Introduction:
A. The subject of marriage has become confused and complex in our modern world (Ill. Judges remark)
   1. Not that complex when viewed from a biblical perspective.
      a. 2 lawful options – unmarried or married.
      b. 2 kinds of marriages – Lawful (moral) and unlawful (immoral) (cf. Mk. 6:17)
      c. 2 kinds of lawful marriages – wise and unwise (1 Cor. 7:28)
   2. Modern social pressures on traditional moral marriages.
      b. Early church had to face the problem from within (1 Cor. 5)
      c. Modern efforts to redefine marriage and streamline divorces.
B. We want to look at the morality of marriage as taught in the Bible.

Discussion:
I. The Bible Teaching on the Meaning of Marriage.
A. A covenant between a man and woman before God (Mal. 2:14)
   1. A covenant must be confirmed (legally ratified) (Gal. 3:15-17)
   2. Between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 7:2)
B. A covenant of one man and one woman for life (Rom. 7:2,3).
   1. No man has the right to nullify that covenant (Matt. 19:6).
   2. God has made only one exception to this rule (Matt. 19:9)

II. The Bible Teaching on Alternatives to Marriage.
A. Only one moral alternative – celibacy.
   1. For one who chooses not to marry.
      a. Thinks it is best for him/her.
      b. Thinks it best for his/her circumstances (1 Cor. 7:26, 37)
   2. For one has been divorced or has divorced for unscriptural reason (Matt. 5:32; 1 Cor. 7:10-15).
   3. Not to be forced on one who has a right to marry – invites immorality (1 Cor. 7:2,3; 1 Tim. 4:3)
B. Other alternatives are immoral – fornication (sexual immorality)
   1. Homosexual activity.
      a. Seeking and receiving social acceptance.
      b. Condemned in both Testaments (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)
      c. Wrong whether licensed as “marriage” or not.
      d. If one has such temptations must not yield (cf. Jas. 1:14-15; 1 Cor. 10:13).
   2. Heterosexual activity. (Gal. 5:19-21)
      a. Premarital or extramarital
      b. “Living together”, “making love” equals fornication – lost!
      c. Married without having divorces previous spouse for fornication.

Conclusion:
A. Each must decide what is best for him/her – celibacy or a moral marriage.
B. Each must keep him/herself from fornication of any kind (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Cor. 6:18)