

by Bill Crews

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marriage; God has the sovereign right to regulate it. His plan is: one man and one woman become one flesh for life. Each marriage is to be until death (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39). The only "cause" for which a divorce is permitted is sexual immorality on the part of the one put away.

*"Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge"* (Heb. 13:4). Some individuals and organizations would like to destroy marriage, and many who are married become unwilling to abide by the regulations for marriage given to mankind by the author of marriage.

*"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God"* (1 Cor. 6:9-11, NKJV). The time will never come that men can change these things that are wrong into right. A marginal note in the excellent NKJV on the 4th and 5th words in the list above reads: "1. catamites, those submitting to homosexuals 2. male homosexuals." Contrary to what some have been parroting, medical science has not established that homosexuals are born that way. God does not condemn any conduct that man cannot help or control.

*"Wives, be in subjection unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the saviour of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives also be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it"* (Eph. 5:22-25). What was true in 63 A.D. is still true in 2012 A.D. Many who are married would be a lot happier than they are now if these and other Biblical principles relating to marriage were practiced.

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy Father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6: 1-4). Think of all the families in which these things are neither taught nor practiced; think of all the children without fathers; think of all the fathers who have abandoned the children that they have fathered.

*"That they (the older women - BC) may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed"* (Titus 2:4-5). We live in such a society, and we have established for ourselves such a material standard of living, that it is almost impossible for wives to practice these principles. But God demands it, and there is no excuse for Christians to ignore them.

*"Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection. But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man, but to be in quietness"* (1 Tim 2:11-12). Radical "feminists" have a "hissy fit" over this passage, but they reject both the existence of God and the inspiration of the Bible. Religious women who reject this passage do not really accept the inspiration of the Bible. And those who think it based upon "first century culture" need to read the verses that follow.

*"Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of braiding the hair, and of wearing jewels of gold, or of putting on apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in the incorruptible apparel of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price"* (1 Pet. 3:3-4). The Bible is not forbidding the adorning mentioned in the first clause (if that were the case, God would be forbidding a woman to put on apparel or clothing), but it is stressing where the emphasis must be put -- on the inward being or spirit, not on the outward being or body.

*"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a dishonor to him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering"* (1 Cor. 11:14-15). Yes, I know that "long" is a relative term (so is

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