

Family Worship Notes: Defending the Creation Order of Marriage

Scripture Block

"If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and detests her, and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, 'I took this woman, and when I came to her I found she was not a virgin,' then the father of the young woman and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the young woman's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate."

Deuteronomy 22:13-15 (NKJV)

Old Testament Connection Summary

The civil laws of ancient Israel were given to maintain the holiness of the nation and to punish rebellion against God's design. While the specific civil penalties of Israel—such as stoning for sexual deception—are no longer executed by the church or state today, the moral weight of these laws remains permanently binding. This case law is a direct application of the Seventh Commandment. It exists to defend the creation order of the one-flesh union against the destructive forces of lust, premarital unchastity, and deceit.

Devotional Teaching and Application

When God created humanity, He made them male and female, consisting of both body and soul. The creation account in Genesis reaches its pinnacle with the establishment of marriage: a radical, one-flesh union where a man and a woman are united physically and spiritually. Because marriage encompasses the whole person, any illicit use of human sexuality is a direct rebellion against the Creator's design. The laws found in Deuteronomy 22 were given to preserve the sanctity of this union against the sinful lusts of a fallen world.

The specific case law before us outlines a tragedy of deception and malice. A man marries a young woman, but after the wedding night, he detests her and publicly smears her character, claiming she was not a virgin. The law requires the father and mother of the bride to step forward in the city gates and defend the purity of their daughter and the honor of their household. If the husband is found to be lying out of malice—perhaps because he married her solely for physical beauty and his lust quickly turned to hatred—he is severely punished. If, however, the young woman had deceived her parents and her husband by playing the harlot while hiding her sin, the judgment fell heavily upon her.

This passage contains vital warnings for our own families today. We live in a society where fornication is glorified and the expectation of purity has been entirely abandoned. The world operates on a "romance model" of relationships, driven by sensual desires and physical attraction. But the believer must operate on a dominion model, prioritizing faith,

character, and covenantal faithfulness. A man who marries a woman merely for her outward form may soon find that he hates the character of the person he has joined himself to.

Furthermore, this text lays a heavy responsibility upon the doorstep of parents. It is the duty of the father and the mother to raise chaste sons and daughters, guiding them, protecting them, and certifying their purity when they are given in marriage. We must guard our households against the impurity of the age. If there has been failure, either in our own past or in the lives of our children, it must not be covered up with deceit. It must be confessed, brought to the light, and washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. As the Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians regarding their past sexual sins, "such were some of you, but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Catechism Style Q&A

Question: What is the central purpose of the Seventh Commandment?

Answer: To defend and preserve the creation order of the one-flesh relationship in marriage against all perversions of it.

Daily Scripture Memory Verse

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

Questions for Children

God designed marriage to be a holy relationship between one man and one woman. He requires us to keep our bodies and our hearts pure to honor His creation. Discuss these questions together to understand why God's boundaries are good and protective.

1. Why did God create the covenant of marriage?
2. How can you honor God with your choices and guard what you look at while you are young?

Keeping our minds and bodies pure is how we show God that we trust His design. Even when the culture around us disobeys God's law, we are called to live as a holy people.

Parent and Adult Reflection Questions

Raising children in a culture that despises the creation order requires deep intentionality and vigilance. We cannot assume our children will naturally walk in purity without active,

daily discipleship from a father and a mother. Take time to examine your own household leadership through the lens of these questions.

1. Are we actively involved in guiding our children, protecting them from compromising situations, and guarding what media enters our home?
2. Have we warned our young men and women against the danger of marrying based on sensual desires, teaching them instead to look for proven Christian character?
3. If there is past moral failure in our own lives, have we truly repented and found cleansing in Christ so we can lead our family without hypocrisy?

The defense of the Christian family begins with our own self-government and repentance. Where we have failed to protect the boundaries of our homes, we must seek the Lord's mercy and establish new standards of holiness today.

Practical Applications for Obedience

The pursuit of purity requires aggressive, practical action. Cultivate high moral standards in every aspect of your life—evaluate what you think about, what you read, what you watch on screens, and what you wear. Everything about a believer should communicate godliness and chastity. Young men must prepare themselves for the biblical calling of taking a wife based on virtue, not merely physical attraction. Parents must set strict boundaries to protect their children from the harlotry of modern culture. Finally, if there is hidden sin or past fornication, it must not be covered up through deception. Confess it to your parents or pastors, seek the immediate forgiveness secured by the blood of the New Covenant, and walk forward in a restored life of purity.

Family Prayer Prompt

Father in heaven, we recognize that we live in a nation that tramples upon Your creation order and blasphemes the Seventh Commandment. We ask that You would give our family a burning passion for moral purity. Help us as parents to diligently defend our home, that it would never be a place of hidden sin, but a household of honor and holiness. Give our children the grace to guard their minds and bodies faithfully. Have mercy on us for our past failures, and thank You that through the blood of Jesus Christ, sinners can be washed, justified, and made entirely new. Give us the strength to walk in obedience this week. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.