

Till Death Do We Part

Intro:

→ Pam Raybon told me about an event in her life with Richard

- Pam and Richard Raybon - been married about 47 years
- got married and left Tampa, Richard went into service
 - Pam cried and cried, leaving home with man whom she married
 - had to be thinking, “What have I gotten my self into?”
- returned after being away 4 years, went to church, first sermon Brother Phillips preached was on marriage and divorce — forceful sermon
- later, Pam and Richard looked at each other and said, “We’re married for life now!”

➤ → This lesson:

- **Title:** Till Death Do We Part
- **Purpose:** remind the married of their commitment, remind the unmarried of the commitment they’ll make if they decide to get married

➤ #1 **The first human institution upon earth was marriage. It is the fabric of our society.**

→ **Gen. 2:18-25** man alone, not have a helper, woman created

- **marriage instituted:** sexual relationship good between married people
- **man and woman “join” (cleave):** means to *join fast together, glue, cement*.
 - Marriage is the strongest human relationship. It is a bond.
 - Men and women must not let anything come between them (other family, friends, jobs, etc.).
- **"Become one flesh":** denotes the sexual relationship reserved only for lawfully married couples (1 Cor. 6:15-16).
- **1 Cor. 11:1-3, 8-9, 11-12** God ordained social order between man and woman
 - **important points:**
 - **vs. 3** man is the head of woman / Christ is the head of man
 - **vs. 8** woman is from man
 - **vs. 9** woman was created for the man's sake
 - **vs. 11-12** men and women need each other - procreation
 - **godly relationship**
 - **Eph. 5** **wives obey** husbands as the Lord / **husbands love** wives as Christ loved the church
 - **Eph. 5:33** love own wife, respect husband

➤ → **Marriage is a blessing from God.**

- **Gen. 2 (above)** instituted by God
- **Pr. 18:22** wife, a good thing, obtains favor from the LORD
- **Heb. 13:4** marriage held in honor among all, marriage bed is undefiled, fornicators and adulterers God will judge
 - **word of caution to the young, unmarried:**
 - sexual relationship is good, unless you have sex out of marriage - then sin, immoral
 - God will judge fornicators and adulterers (Heb. 13:4), keep yourself pure
- **Secret to a successful marriage — put God first, each other second, self last:**
 - **Lk. 10:27** love God with all your heart, soul, strength, mind; and neighbor as yourself
 - marriages based exclusively on God's laws, always succeed - 2 people helping each other get to heaven

➤ → **Marriage is to prevent sexual immorality.**

- **1 Cor. 7:1-9**
 - it's profitable to be single, work for the Lord
 - because of immoralities, should marry unless able to control self
- **responsibility** of those who are married: fulfill sexual duty to one another (1 Cor. 7)
 - not to deprive each other
 - husband has authority over the wife's body
 - wife has authority over the husband's body

- → **Marriage is till death.** (except for reason Jesus states, later in lesson)
 - **1 Cor. 7:39; Rom. 7:1-3** marriage covenant lasts until the death of one party
 - **Rom. 7:2** bound together by God, His law - one man and one woman for life
 - **Rom. 7:3** if joined (married) to another person while spouse lives, adultery
 - cannot marry another person unless spouse dies
 - **word of caution to the young, unmarried:**
 - be careful that you choose a mate you can live with and be happy, for life
 - better chance if you marry a Christian
 - **2 Cor. 6:14-15** marriage to an unbeliever is not forbidden, but marriage between believers is better - same love (agape), same attitude and commitment, help get to heaven

- **Application: message from the Garden of Eden - creation of marriage**
 - God ordained that one man is to be married to one woman, for life
 - Till Death Do We Part, is the commitment

➤ #2 You cannot divorce your spouse and remarry, except for sexual immorality.

→ **Matt. 5:31-32; 19:9**

- cannot divorce and remarry unless spouse is unfaithful
- whoever marries a person who has been divorced commits adultery (unless divorced spouse for immorality)

→ **illus.: Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce us not difficult to understand.**

● **studying with man regarding salvation**

- we had to study about marriage because one or both of them had been in multiple marriages
- man read Matt. 5 and 19
- he explained it to me (not me to him)
- he said, "I'm not going to do that"
 - he wasn't going to get out of an adulterous relationship - knew that meant he could not remain married and obey God's command

➤ → **Godly men and women would not want to divorce for any other reason!**

- **Eph. 5:22-24** wives submit as to Christ — not going to divorce Christ
- **Eph. 5:25-31** husbands love as Christ the church, gave self, crucified, not hate own flesh, nourish and cherish — not divorce Jesus or self
- cannot divorce and cherish - unless wife has been unfaithful

➤ → **Look at the reason for Jesus' statement in Matt. 19:9.**

● **Matt. 19:3-9**

● **important points:**

- **vs. 4-6** Jesus' command in vs. 9 is the law God established in the garden
 - **vs. 8** from the beginning. . . .
- **vs. 7** God permitted the Jews do divorce for other reasons because of the hardness of their hearts
 - today we live under the law of Christ (**Gal. 6:2**), all men must repent (**Acts 17:30**)

➤ → **What recourse do you have, if. . . .**

- **Matt. 5:32; 19:9** whoever married one who has been divorced for sexual immorality commits adultery
 - **adultery** is unlawful intercourse with another person's spouse

➤ ● **If you divorce your spouse for sexual immorality, you may remarry.**

➤ ● **If your spouse divorces you for sexual immorality, you cannot remarry.**

➤ → **What recourse does a person have who leaves (divorces) a spouse who's not guilty of sexual immorality?**

➤ ● **1 Cor. 7:10-11**

● **important points:**

- **two people are not** to separate or divorce (Jesus: permitted if immorality)
 - Greek, *chorizo* (kho-rid'zo): to leave a spouse or divorce, translated *separate* in Matt. 19:6
- **if they do**, they must remain unmarried or be reconciled

Conclusion:

➤ → Application:

- **marriage can be one of the greatest or worst experiences of life**
 - it all depends on what part God plays in the marriage - if He is the centerpiece, it is one of the best human relationship we can experience
- **unmarried:**
 - Be sure marry someone you can live with till death.
 - Marry someone you believe can live with you till death.
 - long engagements are helpful
 - It's advisable to marry a Christian.
 - A relationship based exclusively on God's laws is always successful:
 - happier, more fulfilling
 - love as taught by God, not world
 - help each other get to heaven, not hinder
- **married:**
 - once married, remain faithful to the marriage - if you are divorced for immorality, you can't remarry
 - if you can't live with your spouse and separate (divorce), and immorality has not occurred, you have to remain single or be reconciled to your spouse
 - **Pam and Richard looked at each other and said, "We're married for life now!"**
 - **Till Death Do We Part**

→ Inv.:

- it doesn't matter if you are married or single, all that matters is that you are serving God, obeying Him
- if married, God expects you to live by His commands regarding marriage
- if you are single and get married one day, God expect you to live by His commands in the marriage
- inv.
 - all of us (married or single) must obey God's commands regarding salvation, to go to heaven
 - **Rom. 7:1-6** as a man and woman are married (joined, one), Paul tells us that we are joined (married, KJ) to Christ, when we obey Him and are baptized

Audio sermon notes:

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.
- Sermon recorded 3/19/2006, Church of Christ, South Livingston Ave. In Lutz, FL, Allan McNabb, BibleStudyGuide.org.