

I Corinthians 7; Lord's Day 41

GOD'S CALL TO PURITY AND FAITHFULNESS

- I. What God has done.
 - A. God created man pure so that he was naked and not ashamed (Gen. 2:25).
 - 1. Man's experience of the fall into sin was their being ashamed (Gen. 3:7) and wanting a covering (this was without grace).
 - 2. Satan constantly works to destroy the foundation of good order in the marriage and family with selfishness.
 - B. In Christ, God provides for every one of His people to have the real marriage with Christ (Gen. 3:21; Eph. 5:25b-27,32).
 - 1. God is faithful and maintains the loving relationship by constantly giving and forgiving.
 - 2. As a result marriage (after sin) is honorable and the bed undefiled (Heb. 13:4) picturing the real marriage (Eph. 5:32).
 - 3. God's command (never out-dated) makes every human responsible to reflect God's holiness and purity.
- II. God condemns adultery, all unfaithfulness and every uncleanness.
 - A. Adultery is unfaithfulness on the part of a husband or wife, or it is sexual impurity before marriage.
 - 1. God condemns all selfishness: whether in desiring to satisfy lusts or in refusing to pay the debt.
 - 2. The command boldly brings out sinful thoughts and desires from their hiding places and proclaims them as evil.
 - B. Adultery/fornication violates covenant, severely damaging relationships.
 - C. God condemns every marriage where there is not a striving for a love relationship patterned after Christ and the church.
- III. Gratitude for God's faithfulness to us constrains and restrains.
 - A. Look up and see yourself in the real marriage with Jesus, which is only mercy and always undeserved.
 - B. God always has more grace than we have sins, both to forgive and to enable us to be pure.
 - C. Everyone who is married to Jesus is called to reflect Jesus in grateful purity and faithfulness.