

HONORABLE MARRIAGES

Heb.13:4

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. To claim as some do that Heb.13:4 teaches:
 - a. Any and all marriages are honorable, is to pervert the passage.
 - b. If two people are married, the marriage is honorable, is to pervert the passage.
2. Such a doctrine is obviously a perversion of Heb.13:4 because:
 - a. According to Mk.6:14-18, even though King Herod was married to his brother Philip's wife, it was not an honorable marriage. It was an unlawful marriage; therefore, could not be a holy, honorable marriage!
 - b. According to Rom.7:1-3, though married, one can be in an adulterous relationship; which, of course, can't be an honorable marriage. Cf. Heb.13:4b.
 - c. That would mean Heb.13:4 is teaching there is no such thing as an adulterous relationship possible within the marriage bond, which would mean there is a contradiction between Heb.13:4 and Mk.6:17,18, as well as Rom.7:1-3.
3. Furthermore, the ASV of Heb.13:4 reveals the true meaning of Heb.13:4: "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed (the marriage bed,ejd) be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
 - a. Williams: "Marriage must be held in honor by all, and the marriage relations kept sacred. Persons who are sexually vicious and immoral God will punish."
 - b. This is an intensive imperative: "Let marriage be had" – it is required; it is demanded; it is obligatory!
 - c. The idea is "let is be had or held in honor by all in every way."
4. With that before us, let us talk about Honorable Marriages as a topic as suggested by Heb.13:4.
5. To know what honorable marriage is, we must learn it from the Bible. To know how to hold marriage in honor we also must learn that from the Bible and be guided by what it teaches.

II. DISCUSSION

A. BIBLE TRUTHS AND/OR SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING MARRIAGE.

1. Jehovah God established and ordained marriage in Gen.2:18-24
2. Jesus endorsed marriage in Jno.2:1-11 at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee.
3. The Holy Spirit in Heb.13:4 declared it to be honorable; a relationship to be held in honor – free of fornication and/or adultery, all forms of immorality!
4. Marriage as God established and ordained it in Gen.2 was majestic, dignified, marvelous, God-glorifying, and man-blessing.
5. Had become marred in Mal.2 wherein men, instead of being justly proud of the wife of their youth, the wife of their covenant, as it was in Gen.2, were dealing treacherously with them – putting them away – divorcing them – doing that which God hates, V.16.
6. The original law of marriage of Gen.2 was still recognized as binding by Jesus Christ in his day according to Mt.19:3-6. Here Jesus reaffirmed it.
 - a. Take note of unbelieving man's question in V.3.
 - (1) Their wishes had already fathered the thought that such was lawful.
 - (2) They were not eliciting information for the sake of information; they were seeking to trap Jesus or place him in opposition to Moses, or to their perversion of Moses.
 - b. Jesus' answer in Vv.4-6 not only exposes their evil intention but answers their question in the negative as well as declaring that God's original marriage law had not changed – it was still binding as originally stated in Gen.2.
 - (1) "One man for one woman for life."
 - (2) Has never been "one man for one man or one woman for one woman for life; or even one day"
 - (3) One man for one woman at a time, or one woman for one man at a time just as long as you are married; or married, divorced, married again ,etc.
7. Therefore, marriage is honorable for a man and a woman who are scripturally eligible to enter its sacred precincts.

- a. Honorable to those who have a scriptural right to be married according to God's original law.
 - b. It is holy and honorable in intimacy.
 - c. The "bed" of Heb.13:4 is the marital bed of husband and wife who are eligible to be sexually intimate.
- 8. It is honorable when each spouse is faithful and loving to the other over a lifetime, Eph.5:23-33. Cf. 1Cor.7:1-5.
 - 9. It is honorable when children are conceived in such union, later born and reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord therein, with no thought of abortion, Eph.6:1-4.

B. WHEN MARRIAGE IS NOT HONORABLE, AND THE MARRIAGE BED IS NOT UNDEFILED.

- 1. The bed of the dating, unmarried couple is not undefiled; it is either fornication or adultery or both.
- 2. The bed of a man or woman with some one not his/her spouse is not undefiled; it is adulterous.
- 3. The bed of the homosexual and or of the lesbian is not undefiled; it is an abomination (Lev.18:22); it is a defiling of oneself (1Tim.1:10); it is unnatural, against nature, vile affections (Rom.1:26,27); it is fornication, a going after strange flesh – unauthorized flesh, Lev.10:1 --, Jude 7.
- 4. When one divorces a spouse for a cause other than the fornication of the divorced spouse and marries another, the marriage is not honorable, nor the bed undefiled, Mt.5:32; 19:9.
- 5. When one who has a living spouse (i.e., one to whom they were formerly married) to whom they are bound, and yet is married to another, the marriage is not honorable, nor the bed undefiled, Rom.7:1-3.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. Sexual intimacy is reserved only for a man and a woman – a husband and his wife – in marriage as God established and ordained it in Gen.2, and as Jesus Christ reaffirmed it in Mt.19:4-6.
- 2. Marriage is not honorable when it is adulterous in nature both in the beginning of such and in the continuation of such. In both Mt.5:32 and 19:9 it is "committeth" – a continual practice; not a one time act.
- 3. Not is it held in honor when it becomes a war zone instead of a loving, God-glorifying, man-blessing relationship.
- 4. Unregulated by God's word, it is anything but honorable marriage! (Credit to Robert R. Taylor, Jr., Studies in Hebrews, Quality Pub.)