



Love and Marriage

Hosea 10:12-13, Hebrews 13:4

[PREVIOUS: Played "[Love and Marriage.wma](#)".]

We are in a series about love. Today we're going to let the Bible talk to us about another aspect of love. Love between a man and a woman. Sexual love. Today were going to talk about "love and marriage," love and not being married. Easy stuff.

Q. How many of you are married?

Q. How many of you are not married? Lift them up. How many of you, if you could have a great marriage, and God showed you a perfect person, would someday like to be married? (Look around the room.)

Q. Okay, if you're married, raise your hands if you have been married for 15 years or more? 20, 25, 35, 45, 50 plus. (I can tell you that the percentage of people in this group married more than 15 years is higher than and equal size group from the population around us.) Love and marriage DO go together.

Listen. Today we are going to cover some tough, and probably for some, painful, uncomfortable subjects. But if you don't think that the God who loves you enough to provide a savior and eternal salvation doesn't care about you to want to help you form great, godly, love filled relationships and life here -- then you don't yet know the depth of God's love.

Today I want to talk about God's plan for relationships. Let's face it, today we don't hear a lot about that and we know all about the culture's way. All I'm asking you is to listen to another view. Some of you here today may be living together because that what you feel is best, and I'm not

here to throw stones. I just want you to listen to God's plan and why He says it will be better for you. This is not about guilt. It's not about the past. It's about your present in your future.

Let's watch this VIDEO first... [play [LivingTogetherCeremony.Mpg](#)]

Welcome to First Baptist Church, where we "dance" around the sensitive issues...

I want to compare God's Plan, which is marriage, with our culture's plan, which is living together (and experiencing sex outside of marriage as a norm).

Why are more people choosing to have sex outside of marriage, and why are more people looking to live together today in ever increasing numbers every year?

My theory is we have a generation of people growing up who had parents who divorced in great numbers. And they have experienced the pain of broken relationships and bad marriages and even worse divorces. *In America, less than HALF of couples getting married will stay married for 15 years.* So the thinking goes, "since the marriage can lead to such pain, why not first give it a try by screwing around, and if that works out, living together? If things work out then we'll just take it to the next level."

Unfortunately, according to the words of Jesus and God's Word, and according to the actual facts, more often than not, it is NOT going to work out for the better. Jesus said "**let your yes be yes and you're no be no,**" and this is just a big "maybe".

What were going to do today is to be honest as possible. With ourselves and God because if we can't do that, we don't have anything. Do you want to get ready to have a lifetime- loving-relationship with someone? If you do, and you can answer "yes" to the two questions I ask you today, then you're going preparing for that kind of love in your life.

Love and Marriage.lwp

First Baptist Pulpit

Sermon Publication of First Baptist Church
Preached by Pastor David Saylor

I. QUESTION 1. ARE YOU COMMITTED TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING?

Are you committed to living according to God's standards rather than according to the watered-down standards of this world? **Hosea 10:12** *Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love,,,*

Wouldn't you agree that in our marriages, our relationships, we want to reap the fruit of unfailing love? God says it begins with *sowing righteousness*.

Jesus said it like this in **Matthew 6:33** "**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you as well.**"

Hosea 10:13 *But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception.*

This is the sad part. Here's what happens. We have sincere people who want to do things right, but people who have been fed deception. They have *eaten the fruit of deception*. Deceiving ourselves, lying to ourselves, or believing a lie.

Here's what were going to do today. Were going to be brutally honest with ourselves.

Question. Earlier I asked how many of you were married/unmarried? Now, for all who are married or one day you may be married, -- how many of you plan on cheating with your spouses? Put them up..

- You plan on an affair? On breaking their heart? I don't see any hands up in a room. Great. Fantastic. You just said you don't plan to cheat on your spouse. Super. **HOWEVER, the fact is that 70% of married men and 60% of married women DO have affairs.**
- "If you want to get to a different destination, you have to take a different route." Some of you, maybe many, are going to think, "Pastor what your telling me today is just weird. It's not normal. People don't live like that, and to do so would not be normal."

Let me agree with you up front. It's not "normal". I don't want what I what I see in the world. The world system has set people up for divorce and heartache. *I don't want to BE normal*, if normal means divorce, pain, and human wreckage all over the place.

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, [for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.]*

Who should marriage be honored by? **ALL**. If marriage should be honored by ALL,

- should married people honor marriage? Yes.
 - should unmarried people honor marriage? Yes.
- Let's get hypothetical. I'll use myself and Nina a the example.
- Let's say I meet a nice girl today at church and I asked Nina for permission to have her over for the weekend to have wild passionate sex. Is that Appropriate/Inappropriate? Do you think Nina would say yes or no?
 - ❖ Then would it be appropriate/inappropriate for an unmarried person to have sex with an unmarried person? Inappropriate, since marriage should be honored by ALL.
 - Okay, let's say I just want to have a woman over and were not going to go all the way or even close, were just going to smuggle and hold each other. Maybe get to 2nd or 3rd base, but no sex. How many would consider if I did that Appropriate/Inappropriate?
 - ❖ Then would it be appropriate/inappropriate for an unmarried person to get all "exploratory" with another unmarried person? Inappropriate, because these are intimate acts that should be reserved for marriage.
 - Now it gets harder. How about if I just start to give part of my heart to another woman? Not sexual, some affection? Start confiding in her things with I don't tell anyone else. Just enjoy spending time with her and sharing life with her. Would you consider that Appropriate/Innapropriate. (If you're not sure, you can ask Nina for the answer. In some ways this can be as hurtful or even more hurtful than previous.)

If that's the case, and a moment ago you all of you told me that none of you are planning on cheating on your spouse, wouldn't you agree that that by having premarital sex, or entering into deeply intimate relationships outside of or before marriage, that you are cheating on your spouse, even if you don't yet know who that spouse is going to be?

Staying the night with somebody? Living together? You're cheating with the spouse you've never yet even met. *Marriage should be honored by ALL* and doing things before marriage that are reserved for marriage - you are cheating.

And yet everyone said, no were not going to cheat, but the truth is almost all of us have or are cheating. You have *eaten the fruit of deception*.

You think, well that doesn't affect me, but it does affect you. Your children, your future children. Your future spouse.

The Stats

"Oh that stuff is just "Pastor talk." I don't buy any of that. God talk. God talk."

Okay, let's look at the "real world results." Maybe you just want to play the odds. Even if you disagree with the Bible and God's standards, look at the practical implications of sex before marriage.

What are the odds of things working out if you live together?

- **80% of cohabiting couples will break up.** (I don't like those odds. I think God wants something better than that for his children.)
- 1 in 25 women who did not live together will have an affair.
- 1 in 5 women who live together will have an affair.
- Cohabiting men are 62 times more likely to abuse. (Ladies, do you want to subject yourself to that? Your kids?)
- Cohabiting couples are twice as likely to divorce as non-cohabitating couples.
- 51% of all non-Christians will cohabit.
- 33% of those who call themselves Christians will cohabit at some point in their lives.

People often think living together is good practice for marriage, but that's not what those statistics say. It's just the opposite.

I am not judging anybody. I can't. But think about how different things are today from the biblical pattern that God gave us.. Rather than a couple preparing with righteousness, instead today people date and very often do married things in their relationships. They date one person, break up, date

another. Not uncommon to be intimate sexually. Then they live together. They share in the finances, they share a bed, they sometimes share children. So basically they do married things, even though they are not married.

So what happens? A guy will meet a girl (or girl a guy), they get intimate together, they may live together, then they eventually break up. Then he will unite with another girl, then they break up. Then he unites, in a marriage type relationship, with another girl and then they break up.

After a while, basically what they've done is they've *pretended to be married to several different people*. In other words they did married things even though they were not really married. BUT also, in a very real sense they practiced divorce. Every time something doesn't work, they break up They got good at breaking up.

So what happens when they get married? Well, divorcing his often the logical thing to do when things get difficult. After all, they've had good solid practice at it. WE have eaten the fruit of deception.

Proverbs 14:12 summarizes it well *there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*. And what are we seeing all over the place today but screwed up relationships that aren't working. Why? *The fruit of deception*.

So ask yourself, Are you committed to righteous living?

II. SECOND QUESTION. ARE YOU READY FOR A RIGHTEOUS COMMITMENT? A COVENANT.

WHY? Why is lovemaking reserved for marriage? One of the big mistakes the church is made has been just saying "*don't have sex, don't have sex.*"

Too often in the church we don't hear why? Why is lovemaking reserved for marriage? The church seems to never explain why? So today I want to do that.

We were talking about the second greatest commitment you will ever make.

Matthew 19:4-6 "**Haven't you read,**" he replied, "**that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will**

leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

God is in on our marriage. It is a holy covenant that God holds us accountable too.

Satan wants us to think marriage is a contract. A contract is an agreement between two people. A covenant is when two become one.

A CONTRACT is a conditional agreement protecting your rights and limiting your responsibility.

In a COVENANT, there is unconditional surrendering of your rights while increasing your responsibility.

What we do in marriage establishes two covenants, a covenant with God and a covenant with our spouse.

Covenant or berith, means "a cutting." Whenever there was a covenant in the Bible there was a cutting, or the shedding of blood....

Adam and Eve - to make skins to cover their nakedness and sin, there was shedding of blood

Abrahamic covenant - shedding of blood

Jesus.... New covenant. God sent his son who was sinless, and he shed his blood.

How would an Old Testament Hebrew priest join a man and a woman? They would stand before the priest and the priest would take their extended hands and with a knife he would cut both, and some blood would flow. Then he would join their hands and tie them together with a cord so they would exchange blood. Why? In Leviticus it says "*the life of the flesh is in the blood.*" And the *two were becoming one flesh.* They were exchanging life in the covenant.

And he would say, "*now as you have bled into one another and exchanged blood, your covenant is established. Now enter into the marital chambers and seal your private covenant which God will hold you accountable to.*" With that the new bride and groom would have intercourse for the first time, and "berith" - cut through the hymen, and upon cutting there again would be the spilling of blood. And in

God's perfect economy a covenant between husband and wife has been sealed- publicly and privately.

That is wonderful. It is spiritual, holy, righteous, and as God would say, "it is good."

What though has the world done with the gift of lovemaking? Which God designed to reproduce. Designed for pleasure. Designed to seal a covenant, and reseal the covenant with one another every time the man and wife make love?

What has the world done with that? Well they've taken it down to, "If it feels good, do it." Taken it down to the point of selfish gratification. *The fruit of deception.*

CONCLUSION

Some are going, "Man have I messed this up big time."

Although physically you can never get your virginity back, spiritually you can. No matter what you've done in the past,.. the question always is with God "What you going to do today?" God will wipe everything clean and give you a chance to spiritually start over. **Let your yes be yes, and you're no be no.**

BONUS. So, how do you know when you've found the one to marry? Suggestion. You pursue God with everything in you, then you look to the left or the right. You see someone that you're attracted to that's pursuing God at the same pace. You check it out. THEN ASK THIS: Can I better serve and glorify God married to this woman/man than I could serve and glorify Him if I was not? If so, men, save up your pennies, nickels and dimes and *pay cash* for an engagement ring. Then you get down on your knees and you ask her to marry you so you can serve God together?

Psalm 34:3 *Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.*

No one is throwing stones in this room. The arms of Jesus are open wide saying "come to me for healing, for forgiveness"

If there's any business you need to do with God. Maybe you're married and there needs to be forgiveness. You're unmarried and you want to commit to living your life according to God's righteous plan.

Maybe you started off right, but something happened and now you have eaten the fruit of deception. I believe God as you here today to get your attention. Listen, if you can trust God to die for all your sins and save you eternally, can she trust

him to know how best to have real love in your life? Can you really believe the world can do that better than God can?

Now just a moment of honesty. Who is going to be honest before God this morning? In your own words, talk to God right now. Tell him what he already knows. Ask them to forgive you. Make whatever commitment is right today.

Will you commit to sexual purity?

Two thousand years ago God established a new covenant. We would no longer be judged by the law, our works. Now through the death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can be judged through the work of Jesus. Jesus shed his innocent blood to forgive us. And now by faith, if you believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was for you and God judged your sin, you can be saved.

And if we will confess our sins, the Bible says he will forgive us our sins.

Come to him as you are and he will help you to make your right life right. No I will not settle for the lower standards of this world. Step across the line. Say no to this world and yes to Jesus.