

# MARRIAGE



The Living Sacrament

Marriage

By Mother M. Angelica

# Comparison

## THE WORLD VIEW

- ▣ “a relationship between a man and a women (or two people) in which society judges it is legitimate for them to live together”
- ▣ *“Yes, your marriage can wear out. People change their values and lifestyles. People want to experience new things. Change is part of life. Change and personal growth are traits for you to be proud of, indicative of a vital, searching mind. You must accept the reality that in today’s multi-faceted world it is especially easy for two persons to grow apart. Letting go of your marriage – if it is no longer good for you – can be the most successful thing you have ever done. Getting a divorce can be a positive, problem-solving, growth-orientated step. It can be a personal triumph.”* New Woman Magazine

## CHRISTIAN VIEW

- ▣ Eph 5:3 This is a great mystery ...
- ▣ Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
- ▣ Marriage is specifically for two people of the opposite and not the same sex.
- ▣ The two shall become one in such a way that is mysterious - “they are no longer two” .
- ▣ They are joined by God.
- ▣ Once two people are joined - or married - they cannot be separated - or divorced.

# Marriage is a Sacrament

- *Marriage was instituted by God from the beginning (Mark 10:6-9)*
- *“This is a great mystery” (Ephesians 5:32)*
- *“Marriage is honourable among all and the bed undefiled” (Hebrews 13:4).*
- *It is one of the 7 sacraments of our church*
- Christian Marriage elevates the bodily union to become a spiritual union, through the Holy Spirit, just as the Holy Spirit works in the Baptismal water to make humans a new creation, and works through the Sacrament of Confirmation to ordain a person to become a temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also works in the couple during the marital ceremony, through prayers and faith to unite them in the Lord. Through the commitments made by the bride and groom in fulfilling the commandments of marriage, and the work of the Holy Spirit, the two partners become one.



**Marriage was blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ at the wedding at Cana**

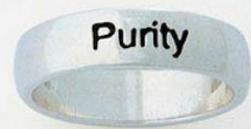
# How is Marriage a Sacrament?



- **What is a Sacrament?** A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - So, a sacrament must consist of:
    - A visible sign or signs.
    - A spiritual grace.
    - It must have been instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ.
  
- **How is marriage a sacrament?**
  - The visible is the bride, the groom, the priest, the deacons, the ceremony, and the prayers.
  - The invisible, is the Holy Spirit that unites them so that the two become one in the Lord. It is a unity of Spirit, thoughts, feelings & the flesh. St Paul says: *"This is a great mystery."* (Ephesians 5:32).
  - Marriage was blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ at the wedding at Cana and in many of His teachings.



# Purity



- ▣ Pre-marriage
  - for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; (1 Thes 4:2-5)
- ▣ Within marriage
  - *“Marriage is honourable among all and the bed undefiled” (Hebrews 13:4).*

# Selection criteria

*There was a person who once asked Jesus what the greatest commandment of all is... "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" (Matthew 22:37).*

*If the greatest commandment is to love our Lord Jesus totally and completely, how can we possibly think of marrying anyone who doesn't? How can we marry anyone who doesn't read the Bible or come to church. How can we marry anyone from another religion who has not been baptised and therefore has not received the Holy Spirit... can the Holy Spirit within us possibly coexist with one who is void of His existence?*

- ▣ **"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" (2 Cor 6:14-15)**
  - **So, what is a "believer?"**
    - ▣ A person who loves God, is involved in serving his fellow man, loves to read the Bible - **discuss further...**



# And the warning...

- ❑ In the Holy Bible God repeatedly warns us against marrying from any group who does not love Him or who are from another religion.
  - *"Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly."* (Deuteronomy 7:3-4).
  - *Note that: The Lord does not at any time entertain the possibility of marrying pagans as a source of evangelism. It is wrong and **dangerous** to think that "I will change him".*
  - *Also see (Joshua 23:1-13).*



# What did Jesus say?

- ▣ The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason? And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. (Matthew 19:3-6)



# What about divorce?

- ▣ *“But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:32).*
- ▣ In the above verse, Our Lord Jesus is saying that divorce for any reason except sexual immorality (or in more modern terms, having an affair) is forbidden. He goes on to say that we cannot marry anyone who is divorced for any other reason than sexual immorality, because divorce for any other reason is forbidden. Our Lord Jesus confirms this again in the verse below.
- ▣ *So He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” (Mark 10:11-12).*



# Purpose of marriage

## 1. Cooperation between man and woman;

- The Lord God said: *"It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him"* (Genesis 2:18), *"Woman was created for the man"* (Cor 11:9).
- 'Comparable to him' meaning similar to him and equal to him

## 2. Unity and oneness in the spirit:

- But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. (Malachi 2:15)

## 3. Procreation;

- *"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward. Like arrows in the hand of warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them"* (Psalm 127:3-5),

## 4. Seeking to rear Godly children:

- And you, fathers... bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does is pure and right. (Proverbs 20:11)

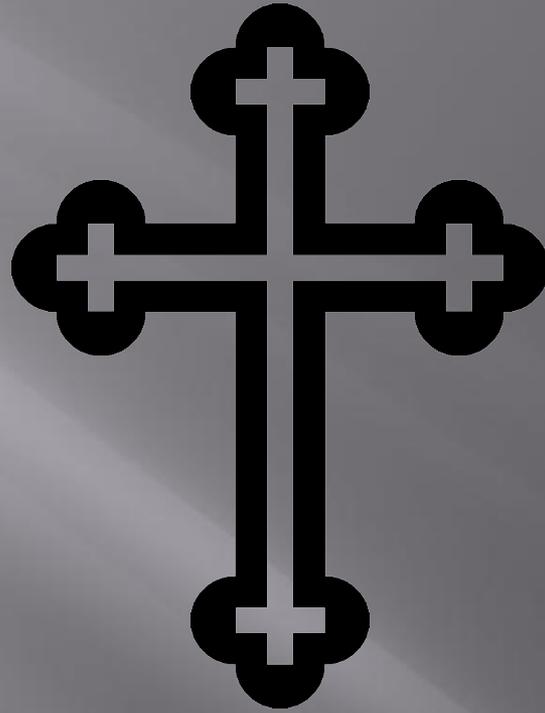
## 5. Protection against adultery and fornication.

- Our teacher St. Paul says: *"But I say to the unmarried and to the widows. It is good for them if they remain even as I am (unmarried), but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion"* (1 Cor 7:8-9).

## 6. Having a righteous and Godly helper:

- She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. (Proverbs 31:26)





Glory be to God.  
Forever. Amen.

# BACKUP SLIDES

# The criteria

- ▣ “A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.” (1 Cor 7:39)

# Marriage Roles

- Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Eph 5:22-33)

# Be kind please...



The last fight was my fault.  
My wife asked, "What's on the  
TV?"  
I said: ...

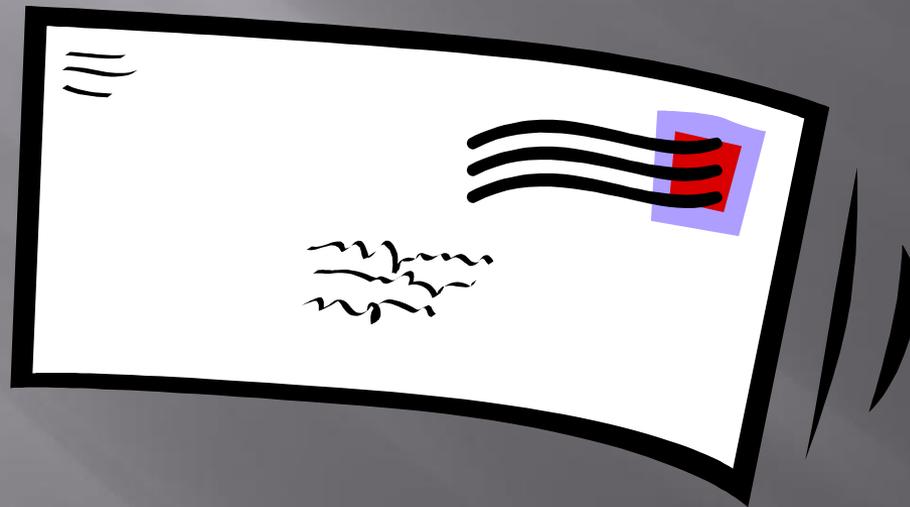
"DUST!"

Young son: "Dad, I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"



Dad: "That happens in every country, son."

A man inserted an ad in the classified: "WIFE WANTED".  
The next day he received a hundred letters.  
They all said the same thing:



"You can have mine!"