

A Christian View of Marriage

By Eric Brubaker

1. Eric Brubaker describes in detail why he believes the Bible reserves marriage for one male and one female. That takes care of *who* can be married. But *what* is marriage? How does it differ from “living with” someone? What role should the church play in marriage? What role should the state play in marriage? What is a covenant in general? How does it apply to marriage?

2. About maleness and femaleness, Brubaker says, “These physical, functional realities were given by God for procreation and the continuation of the human race.” What teachings does the Bible also give on procreation inside and outside of marriage? And what does it say about sex that is not for procreation? Think about your own marriage vows, if you made them. Did procreation fit into your vows in some way? If so, how? What else was included in your vows?

3. The biblical story of creation tells of Adam’s loneliness and his need for human companionship. Of course friends supply much of our companionship in life. Why do you think intimate companionship of the opposite sex is vital to our fulfillment as human beings?

4. Brubaker quotes 1 Timothy in saying, “Adam was formed first, then Eve.” He goes on to say, “Here Scripture teaches that the order of creation has implications for how the church is to function. This is certainly not a very popular teaching and will surely be met with a lot of resistance. At minimum it is a foreign concept in our day. And at face value it can seem to be chauvinistic and sexist. There seems to be something ‘not fair’ about it. But the principle of headship has its foundation in the trinity itself and in relation of Christ to the church: ‘For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body’” (Eph. 5:23).

Why do you agree or disagree with the idea of male headship in marriage?

5. Brubaker quotes Harold Martin, who says, “Marriage is to be monogamous ... permanent ... heterosexual ... a separate unit.” How well does this describe the successful marriages you know of? Can you think of relationships that succeeded with only three of these characteristics? Without divulging names, give an example.

6. Paul stated a preference for remaining single. How does marriage or relationship affect your focus on your religious life? In your opinion, what is best, marriage or remaining single? Why?