

Lecture 17 – Marriage & the Family

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

Key Terms

Structure, covenant, vocation, roles, companionship, partnership

Objectives

*Consider the biblical teaching on family.

*Apply the biblical teaching on family to family related ethical issues.

Marriage & the Family

Introduction

A. Fifth Commandment: rightful exercise of authority in divinely-ordained social structures

B. Three ordained structures for society:

1. Family

2. State

3. Church

C. Three-fold approach to social transformation:

1. Personal renewal

2. Ecclesial practice

3. Structural reform

I. Marriage structure – “leaving”

A. Genesis 2:24 – independent social unit established, assumed to be permanent

B. Global

C. Normative definition > redefinition

II. Marriage covenant – “cleaving”

A. Genesis 2:24 & Malachi 2:14

B. 14th century espousals and nuptials

C. Ancient Near East: Early pre-nuptial agreement

D. Personal commitment

E. Public celebration/declaration

III. Marriage vocation – “one flesh”

A. Companionship

1. Genesis 2:18—rescuer, mutual help

2. Emotional and erotic fulfillment—I Corinthians 7

B. Partnership

1. Procreation

2. Dominion

3. Mission

IV. Family Roles

A. Husband and wife

B. Parents and children