

## XXIV. Marriage and Divorce

### A. Definition of marriage

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1. *Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. It is not lawful for any man to have more than one wife, or for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.*

2. *Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate offspring and of the church with godly children, and for the prevention of sexual immorality.*

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#### 1. Origin

**When was marriage created?**

**To whom does marriage apply?**

#### 2. Definition

Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (*Matt. 19:5*)

**What about polygamy even among believers in the Old Testament? (*Matt. 5*)**

### B. Purpose

#### 1. What was marriage ordained for?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (*Gen. 2*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (*Gen. 1:28, Heb. 13:4*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (*Mal. 2:15*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (*Song of Solomon, 1 Cor. 7:2-5*)

#### 2. Wrong views of the purpose of marriage

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Who can marry

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3. *It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry who are able to give their intelligent consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. Therefore, those who profess the true reformed religion should not marry unbelievers, Roman Catholics, or other idolaters; nor should Christians be unequally yoked by marrying those who are notoriously wicked in their way of living or hold to damnable heresies.*

4. *Marriage ought not to take place between persons who are within the degrees of close relationship by blood or by marriage forbidden by the Word. Such incestuous marriages can never be made lawful—so that such persons may live together as man and wife—by any law of man or by the consent of the parties involved.*

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### 1. Equally yoked

**A believer must marry \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14-16

**“Intelligent Consent”**

1 Cor. 7:36-39

### 2. Degrees of blood

**Incest & unlawful marriage**

Lev. 18 and 20; 1 Cor. 5

**American revision**

The American revision strikes the final sentence from the original paragraph 4:

*The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own; nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own.*

*If a man marries his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has violated the intimacy that belongs to his brother; they will be childless. (Ex. 20:21)*

Mark 6:18; Ruth

*Deut 25:5: When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family. Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her.*