



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 06, 2022

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**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
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**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
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**Minister:**

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**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7 pm

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## Is Your Marriage Lawful?

Marriage is a beautiful God-ordained union between men and women (**Gen. 2:18, 23-24**). In marriage, there is a solemn vow to maintain faithfulness to one another until death. For this reason, it should never be entered haphazardly (**Rom. 7:2; Mat. 19:6**). Since God is the originator of marriage, He is the one who has set the bounds for proper marriage relationships. In other words, acceptable marriages must be in accordance with God's New Testament law.

This is clearly seen in the situation with Herod Antipas (**Mat. 14**). John the Baptist told Herod that his marriage was unlawful (**Mat. 14:4**). The reason for this was because Herod Antipas divorced his own wife to marry his brother's wife—Herodias. This means that Herodias also divorced Philip simply to marry Herod Antipas (**Mat. 14:3**). Remember, God never intended for marriages to end in divorce. However, he does allow a man or a woman to divorce and remarry only if one of the marriage partners commits fornication (**Matt. 19:9**). Thus, marriage is lawful for the following individuals: those who have never been married (**Gen. 2:24**), those whose spouse has died (**Rom. 7:2-3**), and those who have not committed fornication but divorced a spouse who did (**Matt. 5:32**).

Each one should examine his marriage and asked if God approves. It is God who joins male and female together in marriage and it is God at the center of marriage who will keep it pure. Remember, "*Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge*" (**Heb. 13:4**).

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# GOD REGULATES MARRIAGE

*“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).* God instituted the marriage relationship at the very beginning of man’s existence (**Genesis 2:21-25**). Since God originated the marriage relationship, He has the divine authority to regulate it. The Bible contains all that God has said on the matter of marriage. If one desires to know how God views this sacred relationship all that he needs to do is to study what the Bible says about it. The Bible declares marriage to be *“honorable among all.”*

Though customs and traditions may differ, the institution of marriage has continued throughout the history of mankind. It is an honorable institution recognized as such by civilized people. In the passage quoted at the beginning of this article marriage is honorable but those who commit the sins of fornication and adultery God will judge.

What is fornication? The simple answer is that fornication is engaging in the sexual relationship with someone to whom one is not married. God’s marriage regulations state, *“Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (1 Corinthians 7:2).* Fornication is listed as one of the “works of the flesh” which will not allow one to enter into heaven (**Galatians 5:19-21**).

Fornication, as used in the New Testament, is a general term identifying any illicit sexual relationship. What is adultery? Adultery is a married person engaging in the sexual act with someone other than his or her own marriage partner. In other words, *“cheating”* on one’s husband or wife. Adultery is also defined by God as a *“work of the flesh”* which will keep one out of heaven (**Gal. 5:19-21**). Both fornication and adultery along with other sins are addressed in the words of **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”* This passage is plain and easily understood. It leaves no room for the continued practice of violating the marriage relationship.

Same sex “marriages” are a violation of God’s marriage laws. Jesus said. *“...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”?* (**Matthew 19:4-5**).

God’s regulations concerning marriage are given for the benefit of individuals, families and society. Let us respect and embrace them

by Jonnie Hutch