



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 5, 2017

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Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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IS YOUR MARRIAGE LAWFUL?

Marriage is a beautiful God-ordained union between men and women (**Genesis 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 into haphazardly (**Romans 7:2; Matthew 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 (**Matthew 14**). John the Baptist told Herod that his marriage was unlawful (**Matthew 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 (**Matthew 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 (**Matthew 19:9**). Thus, marriage is lawful for the following individuals: those who have never been married (**Genesis 2:24**), those whose spouse has died (**Romans 7:2-3**), and those who have not committed fornication but divorced a spouse who did (**Matthew 5:32**).

Each one should examine his marriage and ask 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*" (**Hebrews 13:4**).

Derrick Coble

STAY AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE

The wise man himself, Solomon, tells us not to get close to:

People who are always changing their mind. *“Meddle not with them that are given to change” (Proverbs 24:21).* You can’t depend on these people. You can’t trust them. They have no convictions or principles. They change with the situation. They are double minded and two faced. Solomon warns, *“Their calamity shall rise suddenly” (Proverbs 24:22).*

People who can’t control their temper. *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul” (Proverbs 22:24-25).* Their temper gets them into trouble, but they never learn from their mistakes (Proverbs 19:19). If you don’t want problems, don’t hang around people who are like this. *“Anger resteth in the bosom of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:9).*

People who like to drink and party. *“Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh” (Proverbs 23:20).* Regardless of how they act, they are not really happy; and they don’t have a promising future. The preacher warns in the next verse, *“For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21).* You will be worse, not better, if you hang around them. You may even start to think that the way they live is not so bad after all.

People who are downright foolish. *“Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge” (Proverbs 14:7).* Don’t think you can reason with him. Don’t argue with him. *“If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest” (Proverbs 29:9).* *“Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words” (Proverbs 23:9).*

People who deceive and manipulate through flattery. *“He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Proverbs 20:19).* An insecure compliment is a setup. The flatterer is trying to get something from you – money, information, or favors. *“A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet” (Proverbs 29:5).*

People who are seductive and immoral. Solomon’s advice to young men about a strange woman is this: *Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house” (Proverbs 5:8).* Don’t mess around with people like this. Don’t play with fire. If you must speak to people like this, be brief and business-like. It’s better to be thought unfriendly than to be lured into sin.

The people you are around have an effect on you. The more you are with them, the more you will be like them. *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (I Corinthians 15:33).* We can either listen to the Bible or we can learn the hard way, but we’ll never get around this principle. If you think you’re the exception, you’ll find out different.

If you want to be good, associate with good people. If you want to be the best you can be, be around the best people you know. *“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20).*

Kerry Duke