

# The Kingdom Effect



# The Kingdom Effect:

*How Christ & the Kingdom Changes Everything*

## The Kingdom Effect...

1. On the Individual
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# Eunuchs for the Kingdom

## Matthew 19:11-12 NIV

**11** Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.

**12** For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who *can* accept this should accept it.”

A **eunuch** (εὐνοῦχος) is a man who (by the common definition of the term) may have been castrated, typically early enough in his life for this change to have major hormonal consequences. In some ancient texts, "eunuch" may refer to a man who is not castrated but who is impotent, celibate, or otherwise not inclined to marry and procreate.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunuch>

“We hold that within the church family, the goodness of being either single or married is honored. We honor the single state and encourage the church to respect and to include single persons in the life and activities of the church family.”

Confession of Faith—in a Mennonite Perspective  
(Article 19, pg. 72)

“The church is composed of the single and the married. Both are called to a life of faithfulness. All are called to be friends, defying the loneliness that threatens anyone not married.”

Stanley Hauerwas

“Christianity is distinctive from its monotheistic sibling faiths of Judaism and Islam in its affirmation of singleness.”

Barry Danylak, *Redeeming Singleness*

# Marriage as One Flesh Union

- Genesis 2:18-24; Song of Songs; Matthew 19:1-11; Ephesians 5:25-31

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Jesus, Matthew 19:4-6 NIV



# Marriage as Covenant

- The Triune-*Agape* Nature of God  
“God *is* love.” (1 Jn 4:8,16)
- **Vows** are made to love and care for the other unconditionally and indefinitely.
- **Sex** physically consummates the “bonding” and binding agreement between male and female.
- **Blessing** comes through the union to the couple, the family (offspring), and the world.

# A Comprehensive Union

1. Unites two people in mind and body;
2. Unites with respect to procreation, family life, and broad domestic sharing;
3. Unites permanently and exclusively.

“Bodily coordination is possible even when its end is not realized; so for a couple, bodily union occurs in sex even when conception does not. It is the coordination toward a single end that makes the union; achieving the end would deepen the union but is not necessary for it.”

Sherif Girgis, *What is Marriage?* (2012)

# Paul on Marriage

## 1 Corinthians 7:1-11, 32-35 NLT

**1** Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual

relations. **2** But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.

**3** The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. **4** The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

**5** Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. **6** I say this as a concession, not as a command. **7** But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another.

**8** So I say to those who aren't married and to widows—it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. **9** But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust. **10** But for those who are married, I have a command that comes not from me, but from the Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. **11** But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else be reconciled to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.

**32** I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him.

**33** But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife.

**34** His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. **35** I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

# Husbands & Wives

**Paul, Ephesians 5:21-33 NLT**

**21** And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**22** For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24** As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

**25** For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26** to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. **27** He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28** In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29** No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30** And we are members of his body.



**31** As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” **32** This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. **33** So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

# Jesus' Teaching on Marriage & Divorce

- Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; Matt 5:27-32

## Matthew 19:3-6 NLT

**3** Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?” **4** “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’” **5** And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’” **6** Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

## **Matthew 19:7-9 NLT**

**7** “Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked.

**8** Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. **9** And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

## **Matthew 19:10-11 NLT**

**10** Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!"

**11** "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps.

**12** Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

# The Kingdom Effect on Marriage

- The original intent for marriage should be affirmed, celebrated, and realized.
- Marriage stands as a symbol of the gospel of God's reconciling, covenant-keeping love.
- Marriage is an illustration of Christ's love and commitment to the church, his Bride.
- Marriage is a calling and is not for everyone. Singleness is exalted alongside marriage.

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