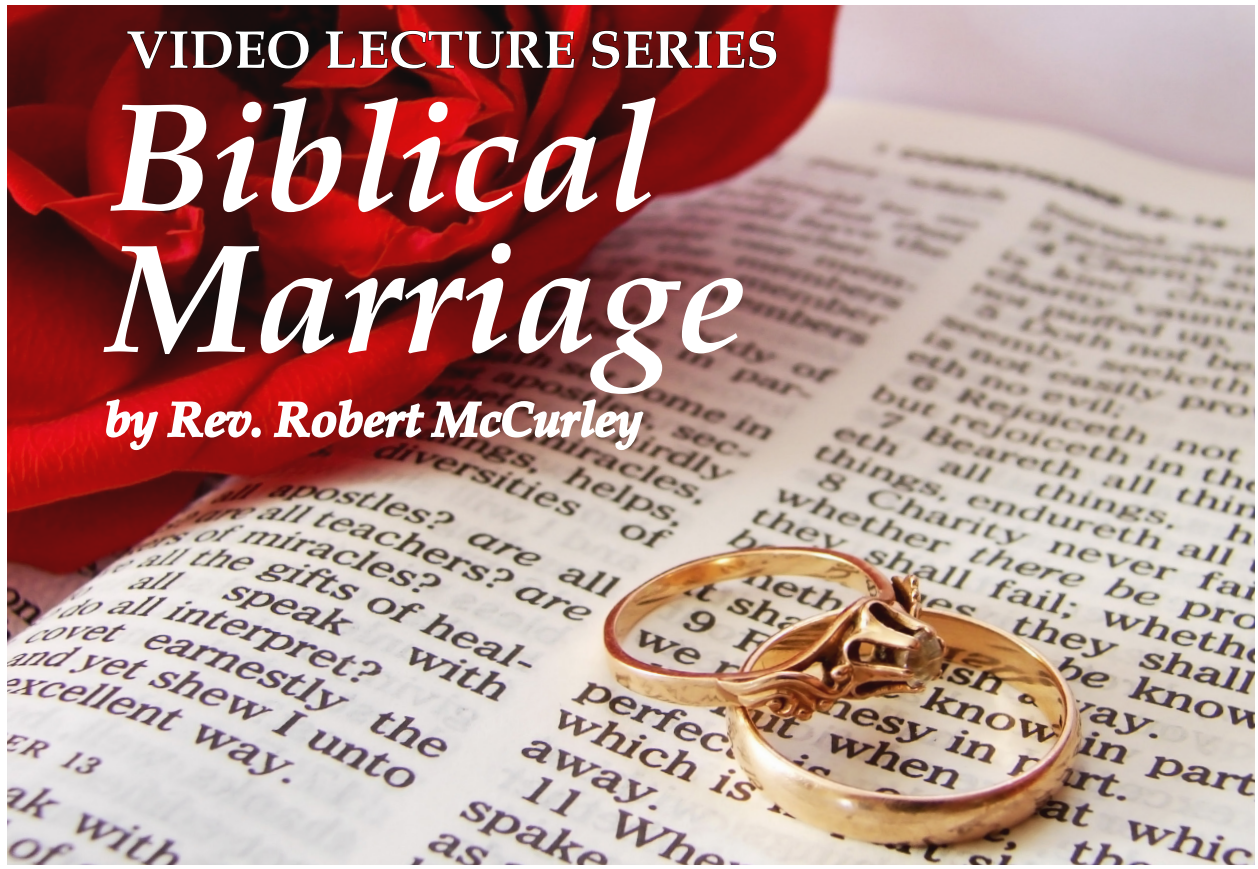


VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

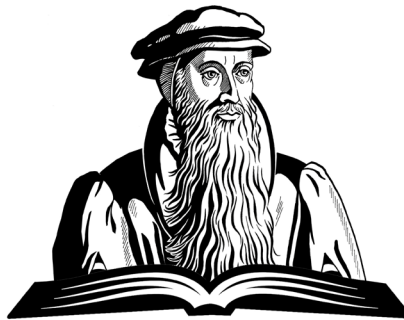
Biblical Marriage

by Rev. Robert McCurley



Lecture #1

Priorities in a Christian Marriage



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Biblical Marriage

in 8 Lectures

by Rev. Robert McCurley

1. Priorities in a Christian Marriage

2. The Unity in Marriage

3. Headship

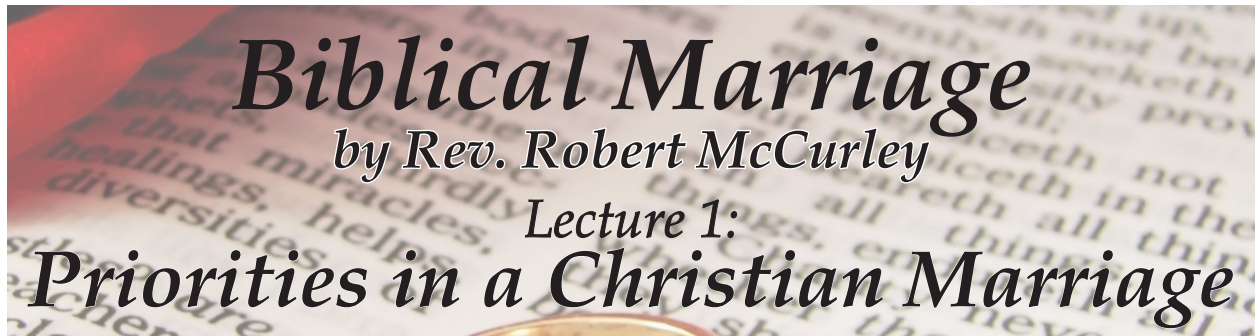
4. Servant and Shepherd

5. Godly Wives 1

6. Godly Wives 2

7. Communication

8. Finances and Physical Relationship



Biblical Marriage

by Rev. Robert McCurley

Lecture 1: *Priorities in a Christian Marriage*

Introduction:

What Makes a Christian Marriage Truly Christian?

1. Governed by the Holy Scriptures.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ is at the center.
3. The gospel shapes and permeates the marriage relationship.

The gospel gives hope for believers struggling in marriage.

- 2 Timothy 3:16, verses 16 and 17.
- 2 Corinthians 12, verse 9.
- Romans 5, verse 20.

Be “doers” of the Word, rather than “hearers” only.

- James 1, verses 22 through 25.
- Matthew 7:24 through 27.

I. The Foundation of Biblical Marriage.

1. Why does marriage exist?

a) The goal of all we do: 1 Corinthians 10, verse 31.

b) The goal of marriage: Ephesians 5, verses 31 and 32.

2. Marriage sets before the world a model of Christ and his church. Many themes, e.g.:

3. Marriage.

a) Temporal calling: Matthew 22, verse 30.

- b) Not guaranteed: 1 Corinthians 7.
 - c) Wonderful gift of God: Hebrews 13, verse 4.
 - d) Must not become an idol, surpassing love for Christ.
 - Luke 14, verse 26.
 - Luke 18, verses 29 to 30.
 - Jeremiah 2, verse 13.
- (1) What happens when spouse is put above or in place of Christ?
- (2) Why is a relationship with Christ important to a blessed married life?

II. God's Design for Marriage.

1. Primarily: companionship.
 - Genesis 2, verse 18.
 - Malachi 2, verse 14.
2. Secondarily: (see Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 24).
 - a) Procreation: Genesis 1, verse 28.
 - b) Propagation of a covenant seed in the church: Malachi 2, verse 15.
 1. c) Preventing lust and fornication: 1 Corinthians 7, verse 2.

III. The First Priority of Marriage.

A. Unity and oneness.

- This Oneness is supremely modeled: Ephesians 5, verses 30 through 32.
- Covenant of grace—marriage proposal.
- Saving Union with Christ produces communion with God in time and eternity.
- This oneness is *prescribed*: 1 Peter 3, verse 7.
- This oneness is *illustrated physically* in the act of marriage: Matthew 19, verses 5–6.

B. How can biblical unity be cultivated?

1. Role of trust and openness:
 - 1 Samuel 18 and 19.
 - Proverbs 31, verse 11.
2. Loving your spouse is required.

- Ephesians 5, verses 25, 28, and 33.
 - Love defined: 1 Corinthians 13.
3. Love doesn't just happen.
- The commitment biblical love makes.
 - Love vs. lust.
4. Relationship of love and giving in Scripture.
- Ephesians 5; John 3, verse 16; Galatians 2, verse 20; 1 Corinthians 13.
 - Role of self-denial— Philippians 2, verses 4 and 5.
 - Clearly manifested in the glorious gospel of Christ, who gave all for his bride. 2 Corinthians 5, verse 15.
5. Ways to express love effectively and with joy, as an aspect of knowing your spouse.
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____

Review Questions

1. In what ways does a Christian marriage differ from other types of marriage?

2. What is the place of self-denial in a biblical marriage?

3. Why is marriage referred to as a temporal calling?

4. In what ways could a marriage be affected by whether or not a spouse walks closely with God?

5. Reflecting on God's design for marriage and his priorities for marriage, what qualities should a biblical marriage display to the world?

6. How and where in the Scriptures has Christ pictured himself as the altogether lovely Bridegroom of his church?
