

# Strangers in Marriage

## Pastor Garry Pace

Marriage is God's creation and His design, for one man and one woman together for a lifetime. It was created by God and is only successful when it honors His plan and includes His presence.

### 1. Contract vs. Covenant

The current culture is on a path to change covenant marriage.

A. Our society has rejected God's word and has become humanistic, Divorce and Cohabitation have also risen in our society...Why?

1. We have turned marriage into a LEGAL AND SOCIAL BOND. We have looked to the legal contract rather than the spiritual bond in the covenant marriage.

*Malachi 2:16...“For I hate divorce!” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.” [NLT]*

2. Divorce is at an all time high and has become a buzz word in American households. Some couples joke about, Society accepts it and World wide...it's a common theme.

3. As a result, cohabitation has also risen dramatically because of a fear of marriage, and because people are trying to avoid the problems they have witnessed in others or experienced previously themselves. But cohabitation exaggerates every problem

Recent scientific research shows marriage boosts every measure of human well-being: A consistent and irrefutable mountain of research has shown, reaching back to the 1970s and beyond, that marriage strongly boosts every important measure of well-being for children, women, and men. Pick any measure you can imagine: overall physical and mental health, income, savings, employment, educational success, general life contentment and happiness, sexual satisfaction, even recovery from serious disease, healthy diet and exercise. Married people rate markedly and consistently better in each of these, and so many more... Thus, marriage is an essential active ingredient in improving one's overall life prospects, regardless of class, race, or educational status.

4. Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy marriage and to keep us separated and unfulfilled.

B. We are to be different in every way, “Strangers in this world” and our marriages should be the example for the world to see.

1. Genesis chapter 2:24 *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

Matthew 19:4-6

*4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 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’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

### 2. Purity vs. Corruption

A. God has given us high walls and a big back yard when it comes protecting our marriage. High walls for keeping perverse and evil things from climbing over and high enough for us not to climb to see what's on the other side. God is a loving Father trying to protect His children from harm by giving us parameters.

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1. Parameters...No Adultery, Fornication, Lust, Homosexuality, Coveting, etc.
2. God takes this very seriously.

Ephesians 5:1-7

*1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

3. Hebrews 13:4 - *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. [ESV]*
4. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 - *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.*

We are to keep our instruments holy and to separate ourselves from all uncleanness.

B. 1 Corinthians 15:33 - *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits. Adultery and divorce runs in groups. As Faithful and strong Marriages run in groups. Your friends are your influence and if your friends are immoral, it ways heavy on your decisions.*

1. The devil wants us to believe God is a legalist.  
God said Genesis 2:17 - *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*
2. Satan responds by saying 'You will not surely die'...Genesis 3:4. Does this sound like any of our friends?...
3. He uses the same tactics when it comes to defiling the marriage.

Examples...

1. you can look, but don't touch. Yet, Jesus says in Matthew 5:28...whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
2. you deserve a night out, its ladies night lets go out for some . Eph. 5:18, *Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. [NCV]*
3. Oh we're just friends on Facebook...
4. Eph. 5:15-17 *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*  
- Greek (akribōs) = carefully

According to a survey by the UK's DivorceOnline, Facebook was implicated in a third of all divorce filings in a recent year. Moreover, according to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, over 80% of U.S. divorce attorneys have witnessed a rise in the number of divorces linked to social networking.

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### 3. God is our Source vs. Man is our Source

- A. If God is our source, I believe this is how our marriages should reflect...
- B. Ecclesiastes 9:9 - *Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that He has given you...*[ESV]
- C. When we trust in something or someone other than God to meet our deepest needs:
  - Our inner security is dependent upon someone or something else, whose resources to meet those needs are limited.

Ephesians 5:20-27

*20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

We are to be strangers in this land and we must realize our source is in Heaven. Remember that Jesus is a gift of grace from God