

THE BEDROOM

(My Heart, Christ's Home; Message Six)
Matthew 19:1-9; Hebrews 13:4

A. Marriage Test

1. If you have to ask your spouse if he or she loves you, something is wrong with your marriage. (a) true (b) false
2. What is the most common problem for couples today? (a) sex (b) money (c) communication
3. Who breaks off love relationships more often? (a) men (b) women
4. In marriage is it normal for one spouse to not be physically attracted to the other for extended periods of time? (a) yes (b) no
5. Jealousy is more likely to be a sign of (a) love (b) insecurity (c) competitiveness
6. Who lives longer? (a) Married people (b) Single people
7. Can a person be deeply in love with two people at the same time? (a) yes (b) no
8. Do people expect too much from their marriage (a) yes (b) no
9. Who copes better with loneliness in the absence of love? (a) husbands (b) wives
10. Commitment is essential to a good love relationship (a) true (b) false

B. Robert Munger, in *My Heart, Christ's Home*, pictures Jesus asking to come in and check out our bedroom (intimate relationships)

HONOR

A. "Honor" is the initial focus of this text: *"Marriage should be honored by all"*

1. First, marriage is precious because it was established by God
2. Second, the word *"marriage"* here references the wedding ceremony, and underscores marriage is two people living together *"until death do them part"*
3. Third, the words, *"among all,"* not only refer to "all" persons, but also to all situations, all respects, and all circumstances

C. It is no secret that we live in a society that has issues with Biblical marriage

1. First, our world is indifferent to its God-ordained permanence
2. Second, our world is indifferent to the composition of a marriage
3. Third, our world places their emphasis on the individual and their success
4. Fourth, our world sees marriage as a contract between two people that can be easily broken rather than as a covenant between two parties...
 - a. We see marriage as an arrangement between a man and woman

b. Scripture says marriage is a covenant between the couple and God

"A cord of three strands is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

PURITY

A. The verse continues: *"...and the marriage bed (should be) kept pure..."*

1. The marriage bed should not be spoiled, defiled or cheapened...
2. Our sexuality is a constant source of mystery, wonder, and joy throughout our life; but sexual intimacy is confined to marriage

B. The application of this command reaches in two directions:

1. First by implication, it speaks to pre-marital impurity/defilement
2. Second, it clearly speaks to maintaining marriage fidelity and truth

C. Keeping the marriage bed pure is God's command - not his recommendation

JUDGMENT

A. Always honor and never defile the God-instituted Covenant of marriage

"Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers ...shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

B. The threat of judgment is frightening because God knows what we're doing

1. He gives us fair and multiple warnings: "Stop! Don't go there!"
2. The punishment is clear: you will not enter into the kingdom of God

GRACE

A. God says, *"My grace is sufficient!"* This is a hard saying...

1. God never says "Stick with it!" without reminding us he will be with us
2. Of the four key words, the greatest word is grace, because it is only by God's grace that we can be what God wants us to be
 - a. It is only by grace that marriage can be honored, that purity can be maintained, and that God's judgment can be avoided
 - b. But God reminds us his grace is sufficient; his forgiveness always follows our repentance, and healing comes when we follow God's will
 - c. The most important person in our marriage must be the most important person in all of our life - Jesus

B. Jesus is standing at the door of your heart knocking, will you let him come in?