



VALUES?

"Family Values—Marriage" Proverbs 2

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The United States Supreme Court handed down the opinion that "Marriage is an institution in whose maintenance and purity the public is deeply interested for it is the foundation of the family and society without which there would be neither civilization nor progress." But times are changing!

I. Secular Approach to Marriage and Family.

- A. Secular assumptions.
 - 1. Humanistic origins—it's mankind's idea.
 - 2. Evolutionary development—better ideas emerge.
- B. Secular attitudes.
 - 1. Re-evaluate marriage.
 - 2. Re-define family.

II. Scriptural Affirmations of Marriage and Family.

- A. Marriage as covenant. Proverbs 3:17b
 - 1. Marriage within the covenant. Deuteronomy 4:13; 5:18f
 - 2. Marriage based on covenant. See Malachi 2:13f
 - a. Before God...
 - b. By God...
 - i. Made one in flesh and spirit.
 - ii. To produce godly offspring.
 - c. Because God...
 - i. Hates divorce.
 - ii. Hates the violence that leads to it.
- B. Marriage as companionship. Proverbs 3:17a
 - 1. Companionship that cares. Proverbs 17:17; 18:24
 - 2. Companionship that confronts. Proverbs 27:6
 - 3. Companionship that counsels. Proverbs 27:9
- C. Marriage as commitment. Proverbs 5:15-20
 - 1. A commitment that establishes limits.
 - 2. A commitment that encourages love.

III. Spiritual Applications to Marriage and Family. Malachi 2:10-16

- A. "Guard yourself in your spirit."
- B. "Do not break faith."

Points to Ponder: Are my views of marriage secular or scriptural? How does my spiritual life affect my marital behavior?