

Please explain Proverbs 5:15-21

Proverbs 5:15-23 discusses the perils of committing adultery. A husband should delight in his wife (vv. 15-20) and remain faithful to her (vv. 15-18). He is rewarded with her love which satisfies (vv. 19-20).

Men who instead go their own way (Eccl 10:2, Jn 10:10) and commit adultery choose a course (Pr 2:16–19) of second death (Pr 7:27; Ga 6:7, Re 21:8).¹

Marriage is: one man, one woman (Ge 2:18–24) in covenant (Mt 19:6) for life (Ro 7:2, 3). The world offers alternatives; but, God's way is the best way (Jn 10:10).²

Marriage³ is figurative of God's union with Israel (Is 54:5) and Christ's union with His Church (Eph 5:23–32)⁴ and it is important to God.

In the Christian home marriage should reflect the love of Christ to the world; though God gave marriage for the pagan, as well.

One who commits adultery and subsequently divorces⁵ and/or abandons his wife⁶ has blood on his hands (Is 1:15). He will answer to God (Ro 14:12, Heb 10:31).

Regarding Malachi 2:16, J.G. Baldwin wrote:

He [God]⁷ sees divorce to be like covering one's garment with violence, a figurative expression for all kinds of gross injustice which, like the blood of a murdered victim, leave their mark for all to see.⁸

A wedding of all weddings is coming in the future (Re 19:9). Christ will inquire as to who was faithful to him during his absence (Pr 20:6, Lk 19:17). One day Christ's bride will be presented (Re 21:2, 9). As Eve was taken from Adam's side (Ge 2:23), Christ's bride will be taken (Jn 20:19b–20, 1 Co 15:51–53) from his pierced side (Jn 19:34). As the first Adam partook of Eve's sin by eating the apple (Ge 3:6), the

¹ Adultery—sexual intercourse outside marriage. Defined: in God's Law (Ex. 20:14), by Christ (Matt. 5:28, 32), in mental attitude (Matt. 5:28), as a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:19). Sin of: breaks God's Law (Deut. 5:18), punishable by death (Lev. 20:10–12), brings death (Prov. 2:18, 19), makes one poor (Prov. 29:3), produces moral insensibility (Prov. 30:20; 2 Cor. 12:21), corrupts a land (Hos. 4:1–3)...excludes from Christian fellowship (1 Cor. 5:1–13), excludes from God's kingdom (1 Cor. 6:9, 10), merits God's judgments (Heb. 13:4), ends in hell (Prov. 7:27; Rev. 21:8). Forgiveness of, by: man (Judg. 19:1–4), Christ (John 8:10, 11), repentance (2 Sam. 12:7–14), regeneration (1 Cor. 6:9–11). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 21). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Purposes of marriage: man's happiness (Gen. 2:18), continuance of the race (Gen. 1:28), Godly offspring (Mal. 2:14, 15), prevention of fornication (1 Cor. 7:2, 9), complete satisfaction (Prov. 5:19; 1 Tim. 5:14). Ibid pg. 400.

³ Marriage is described as: instituted by God (Gen. 2:18–24), honorable among all (Heb. 13:4), permanent bond (Matt. 19:6), intimate bond (Matt. 19:5), blessed of God for having children (Gen. 1:27, 28), dissolved by death (Rom. 7:2, 3), means of sexual love (Prov. 5:15–19), centered in love and obedience (Eph. 5:21–33), worthy of Jesus' presence (John 2:1–11). Ibid, pg. 400).

⁴ Ibid pg. 401.

⁵ It [divorce] covers one's garment with violence (Mal 2:16, NKJV).

⁶ If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (1 Ti 5:8, KJV).

⁷ God's view spoken through the prophet Malachi.

⁸ Baldwin, J. G. (1972). Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi: An Introduction and Commentary (Vol. 28, p. 262). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Second Adam, Christ became sin for us (2 Co 5:21). Jesus was like other men in Adam (Ro 5:12, 16) yet without sin (Heb 4:15). He made a way for those who love him to live with him forever (Re 22:14).

God is against adultery (Ex 20:14). He knows most intimately what it feels like to be betrayed by his love, Israel (Hos 1-3).⁹

⁹ God tells Hosea to marry a prostitute, so some of her children will have been born from other men. Why? To illustrate the way God's people have been untrue to him. Then, even when Hosea's wife goes and sins again, Hosea is to take her back and love her—demonstrating God's never-failing love for his people. Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ho 1–3). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.