

Why the Battle: Different God, Different Gospel? Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Outline for Module Five: The Christian Understanding of Marriage The Rev. Dr. Kendall Harmon

- I. A quote from the 1559 book of Common Prayer
“DEARELY beloved frendes, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of his congregacion, to joyne together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable state, instytuted of God in Paradise, in the time of manes innocencie, signifyng unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church: which holy state Christe adourned and beautified with his presence and firste myracle that he wrought in Cana of Galile, and is commended of saint Paul to be honourable emong all men, and therefore is not to be enterprised, nor taken in hande unadvisedly, lightly or wantonly, to satisfye mennes carnall lustes and appetytes, lyke brute beastes that have no understandyng ; but reverently, discretely, advisedly, soberly, and in the feare of God, duely consideryng the causes for the which matrimony was ordeined. One was the procreation of children, to be brought up in the feare and nurtoure of the Lorde, and praise of God. Secondly, it was ordeined for a remedy agaynste sinne and to avoide fornication, that suche persones as have not the gifte of continencie might mary, and kepe themselves undefiled membres of Christes body. Thirdly, for the mutual societie, helpe, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, bothe in prosperity and adversitye, into the whiche holy state these two persones present, come nowe to be joyned. Therefore if any man can shewe any just cause, why thei may not lawfully be joyned together let hym now speake, or els hereafter for ever holde his peace.”

- II. The Four Purposes of Marriage
 - A. Union
 - B. Procreation
 - C. Prevention
 - D. Communion

Module 5 Buzz Group Questions: Marriage

1. What would you say is a good working definition of marriage?
2. What do you understand to be the purposes of marriage? Why is marriage important?
3. If marriage is a human institution and not just a church institution, why can't society or the civil magistrate simply change the definition of marriage? How should the Church respond if her definition of marriage is different from that of the culture?