

Honor Marriage Hebrews 13:4

Rev. Dr. Tim Yates, D.Min.

CU5X **Hebrews 13:4** 婚姻、人人都當尊重、床也不可玷污。因為為苟合行淫的人，神必要審判。

CNT 人人都應該尊重婚姻，婚床也不要玷污，因為神一定審判淫亂的和姦淫的人。

ESV **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.

Coach Carter movie: 熱血教練 Samuel Jackson 森姆積遜 is a basketball coach who requires his high school students to honor basketball (an honor school work & lifestyles) if they want to play.

I. How to Honor Marriage?

- A. Select leaders who honor marriage in words and actions (1 Tim 3, Tit 1)
- B. Discipline those who do not honor marriage as a warning of God's coming judgment (7th commandment, Matt 18:15-17)
- C. Each married person must live in a way that honors the marriage vows
- D. Speak about it with respect, honor anniversaries in family & church
- E. Support laws and elect leaders that protect marriage and limit sexual immorality, adultery and divorce
- F. Parents model this for your children. There is no greater lesson you can teach them since this is the foundation for faithfulness, honesty, integrity, love. Your marriage is more important than your parenting!

II. Why honor marriage?

- A. God established marriage for the health of the family, church and society (Gen 1-2)
- B. God is faithful to his covenant promises/oaths/vows (Heb 6:13-20), so we should be like him.
 - B. Earthly marriage (embodied in the law, 7th commandment) is a shadow of the good things to come (Heb 10:1), not the true form of the realities themselves. Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church (cf Eph 5:23-33; Ezek 16). As a Christian community, a New-Jerusalem-gathered-people, we must show the good shadow to witness in this world.
- C. God will judge those who dishonor marriage and distort this heavenly shadow (Heb 13:4b) (*spouse who has been sinned against must entrust judgment to God, not using another's sin to be an excuse for falling away in unbelief and despair; continue in faith and patience Heb 6:12*)
 - ◆ Possible earthly disciplines will happen to you when you dishonor marriage:

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family troubles, disorderly kids, sexually transmitted diseases, loss of trust, loss of job or wealth, adulterer destroys family

- ◆ God is an eternal consuming fire for those who dishonor marriage and will not repent (Heb 12:29)

III. How to change to more faithfully honor marriage (Hebrews context shows how)

A. Draw near to Christ as ascended High Priest for grace & mercy to help (Heb 4:14-16; 12:1-4), to be forgiven of sins of dishonoring marriage.

B. Prevent *hardening by sin's deceit* (or prevent temptation to dishonor marriage) by daily exhorting to honor marriage (Heb 3:12-13) Be grieved about what grieves the Spirit (Eph 4:30).

- ◆ *Hardening* by living apart and depriving each other for long periods of time (contra 1 Cor 7:4-5)
- ◆ *Hardening* by movies and popular culture that dishonors marriage (eg. If you watch movies that dishonor marriage, do not passively accept this as normal. Some movies may show the realities of people who dishonor marriage in a way that honors marriage)
- ◆ *Hardening* by view tempting pictures of sex or nudity (pornography dishonors marriage and defiles the marriage bed)
- ◆ *Hardening by using suffering* (both married and unmarried who have been sinned against, or suffering from physical sickness) *as an excuse for sin*: “my needs are not met, so I can have an affair” “my husband sinned first, so I can hate, seek revenge, have my own affair” (see Heb 3:7-19; contrasted with faith and patience in suffering to obtain the promises Heb 11:6-12:4; 6:12)

C. Provoke each other in families and fellowships to marital love & good deeds (Heb 10:24-25)

- ◆ Leaders must teach and model this. We are to imitate their faith and submit to their teaching (Heb 13:7, 17).
- ◆ Meet in small groups for prayer and encouragement, meet as one couple with one other couple, read good books (*Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas, *Peacemaker* Ken Sande, *Humility* Andrew Murray)
- ◆ Support married couples to develop a habit of dating regularly (babysitting, exchange kids)