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Christian Science
and the doctrine of
Marriage

**Why A Marriage
Never Takes Place
In A Christian
Science Church**

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND THE DOCTRINE OF MARRIAGE

Why a Marriage Never Takes Place in a Christian Science Church

The doctrine of Christian Science concerning marriage is very significant, in view of the fact that it is so clearly in line with what the Word of God has said would be taught in the last days of this dispensation. For example, in I Timothy 4:1 we read the plain statement of Scripture: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons." As we examine the teaching of Christian Science concerning marriage, under the lens of Holy Writ, we shall see that it is, indeed, the "doctrines of demons." Moreover, we shall see why no wedding ceremony is ever performed in a Christian Science church, and why no official representative is ever permitted to officiate at a wedding.

What is the explanation of this attitude of Christian Science toward marriage? Simply this: That we are living in an age, foretold by the Lord Jesus, when many are departing from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.

TWO NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING MARRIAGE "IN THE LAST DAYS"

Two New Testament prophecies regarding conditions which will exist in the end of this church age

have to do with false teaching concerning marriage. The first of these prophetic utterances came from the lips of Christ Himself. He was telling His disciples of conditions that will prevail just prior to His return to the earth, to take the reins of government in His own hands, when He said, in Matt. 24:37-39, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

This reference to the days of Noah takes us back to the sixth chapter of Genesis, to the dawn of biblical history. We find in that chapter a description of the conditions that prevailed in the days of Noah. Among other things, marriage is mentioned; and in verse 2 we read that "they took them wives of all that they chose." In other words, they were polygamists, corrupting the sanctity of the married state which God had ordained.

This fact sheds light on the meaning of our Lord's statement as found in the Olivet discourse, and quoted above, when He said that, in the end of this age, there would be "marrying and giving in marriage." The idea, as expressed in this verse, is not merely that the thought of God will be eliminated from the minds of men; but that in the closing hours of this dispensation men will also be changing wives as they were in the days of Noah. This certainly has its fulfillment in our day.

The other New Testament prophecy regarding

marriage, as it will be viewed by many in the end of this age, is the one following Paul's words to Timothy, to which we have already referred in this message, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; *forbidding to marry*" (I Tim. 4:1-3).

Here we have before us the two great predictions concerning marriage and the attitude which will be taken toward it in the last days. To see that the first of these prophecies is true, one has only to look about him; for there is a looseness about the marriage tie such as the world has never known since the days of Noah. The statement has been published, drawn from a reliable source, that twenty-six per cent. of all marriages contracted in America end in divorce courts, and that the percentage is rapidly increasing. And the sacredness of the marriage vow is being disregarded in other countries besides our own.

The second prophecy describes particularly the attitude of the cults that Paul prophesied would arise in the latter days. He says specifically that among their tenets would be the one "*forbidding to marry.*" In other words, it will lead to the tearing down of the God-ordained institution of marriage.

HOW CHRISTIAN SCIENCE FULFILLS BOTH PROPHECIES

We shall see in this study that Christian Science is a fulfillment of both predictions set forth in the Scriptures just quoted. Christian Scientists do not be-

lieve in the sanctity of marriage; nor do they believe in marriage as an institution. They look forward to a time when the marriage relation will be abolished, when no person who is married will be in good standing in Christian Science. To explain this position, they pervert the true meaning of our Lord's statement to the Sadducees, when He said, "In the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage." This is quoted in Mrs. Eddy's writings as pertaining to this age, and is made to apply to mortals; whereas the Scripture here has reference to immortals, who through death have been translated to heaven.

The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection, in angels, in miracles of any sort. They questioned the Lord Jesus only to tempt Him; and, in answer, He spoke these words concerning *the resurrection bodies* of the saints of God.

To twist the meaning of the passage, as Mrs. Eddy does, is to fail to take into consideration the whole context. No intelligent person would do this, except to misrepresent the truth; and this is exactly what the founder of Christian Science has done. Thus she seeks to strengthen her claim that marriage is not to be sanctioned by Christian Science; and that eventually adherents to her teachings will in this life become "as the angels of God" (Matt. 22:30).

Christian Science also sanctions divorce. Its teachings declare, in unmistakable terms, that the marriage covenant may be dissolved by the mutual consent of husband and wife.

A close study of the doctrines of Mrs. Eddy concerning sex, generation, and marriage, as incorporated in her various *Miscellaneous Writings* and in

her text-book, *Science and Health*, will disclose the fact that they are diametrically opposed to everything taught in the Bible concerning that subject. And when her teachings are examined in the light of God's Holy Word, it is clearly discerned that they can be classified only as "doctrines of demons."

ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE,
ALL "MATTER" IS UNREAL

Before we quote from Mrs. Eddy's writings, let us get clearly in mind that her doctrine concerning marriage is based upon her teaching that all "matter" is unreal, including the human body. She holds that your body and mine are unreal; that even the body of the Lord Jesus was only a phantom.

In *Science and Health*, page 452, she says, "God is substance, that is, *the only real substance*." Mrs. Eddy is seeking to convey in this statement that the only real substance in the world is God, and that God is good; therefore, all else—Satan, sin, sickness, death—are necessarily unreal. The only real thing is deity, and this deity is impersonal.

Then on page 335 of the 1902 edition, she says, "God never created matter." And in another place, commenting on Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," she says, "This is a lie."

On page 335, line 7, she says, "Spirit or God has created all in and of Himself; Spirit never created matter." *cat*

Then on page 551, line 27, is the statement, "All must be mind, or else all must be matter; neither can produce the other." *God is mind.* In other words, if

God is all and God is mind, then all is mind or spirit; and if all is spirit, then there is no such thing as matter, which would include the heavens, the earth, and particularly the human body.

It is upon such teaching concerning matter that Mrs. Eddy makes her absurd statements concerning heat and cold, sickness, death, and other experiences, which demonstrate clearly that the human body is not a phantom but real.

On page 123, line 11, she says, "The verity of mind shows conclusively how it is that matter seems to be, but is not."

Then on page 372, line 2, she says, "Your mortal body is only a mortal belief of mind in matter. What you call matter was originally error in solution, likened by Milton to 'chaos and old night.'"

On page 478, line 22, she says, "Matter cannot perform the functions of mind. Error says, 'I am man'; but this belief is mortal and far from actual. From beginning to end whatever is mortal is composed of material human beliefs and of nothing else."

On page 275, line 2, she further declares, "Heat would pass from the body as painlessly as gas when it evaporates, but for the belief that inflammation and pain must accompany this separation."

Another enlightening statement is on page 153, line 17, which says, "You say a boil is painful; but that is impossible, for matter without mind is not painful. The boil simply manifests your belief in pain, through inflammation and swelling; and you call this belief a boil."

The acme of absurdity appears when she says, on

page 118, that "food neither strengthens nor weakens the body"; and, on page 384, "You may gash the body with an ax, pound it to a pulp with a club, and experience no more pain than a wounded tree." She even declares, on page 485 in the 164th edition, that Christian Science is able to replace a man's lost leg, "not with an artificial one, but with the genuine one." The idea is that the human body is not real and therefore the man had no real leg to lose to begin with. It was only imagination that told him the leg was lost. In fact, it was purely imaginary that he had his leg to begin with; for, according to this system, God is spirit and God is all; therefore all is spirit. If all is spirit, then there is no such thing as matter, and the human body is not real, but imaginary. It is upon this teaching, concerning matter and the human body, that Mrs. Eddy bases her doctrine concerning marriage, and promises that one day Christian Science will place prohibition upon it.

Marriage, according to the Word of God, is a union of flesh. The Lord Jesus said so in Mark 10:6-9, where we read, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." But if there is no flesh to begin with, how could there be a union of flesh? Surely the teaching of Christian Science on this subject comes under the category mentioned by Paul in II Tim. 4:4, "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto *fables*."

WHY MARRIAGE NEVER TAKES PLACE IN A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

From the foregoing, we have seen that marriage is only tolerated now by Christian Science, as a necessary evil. Just here let us quote from *Science and Health*, page 274, of the 74th edition, Mrs. Eddy's perversion of Christ's words, recorded in Matt. 22:30, and already referred to in this study:

"... the time also cometh of which Jesus spake, when he declared that in the resurrection there should be no marrying or giving in marriage, but mortals should be as the angels. Then shall Soul rejoice in its own, wherein passion hath no part. Then white-robed Purity shall unite masculine Wisdom and feminine Love in spiritual understanding and perpetual union. *Until it is learned that generation rests on no sexual basis, let marriage continue.*"

In analyzing the above paragraph, we find that Mrs. Eddy implies

1. That a time is coming when marriage will be discontinued.

2. That it will be when it is "*learned that generation rests on no sexual basis.*"

3. That in Christ's reference to the resurrection He speaks of that time when Christian Science shall have entirely done away with marriage, and when generation will continue without this divine ordinance.

4. That this union (marriage) shall be tolerated until the great truths concerning the unreality of matter, and, consequently, the unreality of the body, are learned.

Without question, Christian Science looks forward to the time when mortals shall discontinue marriage.

Other portions of her writings are even plainer in their implications. For example, in her *Miscellaneous Writings*, page 286, she says, "Until time matures human growth, marriage and progeny will continue *unprohibited in Christian Science*."

The significance of this statement is clearly seen. According to Christian Science teachings, time has not yet matured human growth; a time will come when human growth will be matured, and then marriage will be prohibited in Christian Science.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ADVOCATES CELIBACY

Again, Mrs. Eddy asks, in *Miscellaneous Writings*, page 288, "Is marriage nearer right than celibacy?" And here is how she goes on to answer her own question:

"Human knowledge inculcates that it is, while Science (Christian Science) indicates that it is not. But to force the consciousness of scientific being before it is understood is impossible, and believing otherwise would prevent scientific demonstration."

Furthermore, she says, "The time also cometh of which Jesus spake, when he declared that in the resurrection there should be no more marrying or giving in marriage, but mortals should be as angels. . ."

We have quoted this statement before, but we use it again, to illustrate how this system deceitfully handles the Word of God. As we have already seen, when Jesus spoke the words concerning marriage and the resurrection, He was not speaking of mortals, but of those who had become immortals by their resurrection from among the dead, and the state of non-marriage to which He referred is that after death. The use by Mrs. Eddy of these words of Jesus is just another

instance of the deceitful handling of the Word of God by the cults.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SANCTIONS DIVORCE

The following quotation from the *Miscellaneous Writings*, page 297, unmistakably sanctions the disregard of marriage vows by resorting to divorce:

"I hereby state, in unmistakable language, the following statute in the morale of Christian Science:

"A man or woman having voluntarily entered into wedlock, and accepted the claims of the marriage covenant, is held in Christian Science as morally bound to fulfill all the claims growing out of this contract, *unless such claims are relinquished by mutual consent of both parties, or this contract is legally dissolved.*"

These quotations which we have been considering, are only a few taken from the many in the writings of Christian Science pertaining to this subject of marriage; but they are sufficient to make clear to any unbiased mind that this cult does not look with favor upon marriage, and that it looks forward to the time when this divinely ordained institution will be abolished and the ordinance prohibited.

And please bear in mind what we have already emphasized in this study, that the Spirit of God has said that "forbidding to marry" is a doctrine of demons, which will be promulgated in the latter days.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES CONCERNING MARRIAGE

1. *What the Son of God Said About Marriage.* As we turn now to the Bible to get the mind of God concerning marriage, we can find no testimony more authoritative than that which fell from the lips of the

Son of God. He has spoken on this subject, and His word is final. In Mark 10:6-9, He says:

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

The Son of God here makes four declarations:

(a) That God made sex distinction from the beginning: male and female.

(b) That marriage was instituted of God at the beginning.

(c) That the union between husband and wife is not one of sentiment alone, but one in the flesh as well: "they twain shall be one flesh."

(d) That this union cannot be dissolved either by mutual consent or legal act.

Therefore, upon the authority of the infallible Son of God, to attempt to dissolve marriage by mutual consent or legal act is to break the law of God.

If you will turn to Genesis 1:28, you will find the purpose of God in instituting this ordinance of marriage: "And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."

Thus we see that Christian Science' declaration that "generation rests on no sexual basis" is diametrically opposed to the Word of God. From the beginning generation has rested on a sexual basis, as is abundantly proved, not only by these words of our Lord, but also by the genealogies of the Old and New Testaments, to say nothing of those of later years. For example, Matt. 1:1 and Luke 3:23-38 record genealo-

gies which cover a period of time beginning with Adam and ending with the birth of Christ.

2. *What Paul Said About Marriage.* What the Son of God has stated regarding this question has been emphasized again by the Spirit of God through the pen of the Apostle Paul. In Romans 7:1-3, we read:

"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

"So long as he liveth," the wife is under bond to her husband for all the responsibilities of wifehood. There is nothing in the paragraphs of Holy Writ, quoted above, which leaves any room for such doctrines as are promulgated by Christian Science, to the effect that the marriage bond can be abolished by "legal action or mutual consent."

Again, we find the Holy Spirit speaking through Paul, in I Tim. 5:14, "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

There is no intimation here that celibacy is considered a higher honor for women than wifehood and motherhood. If it were so, the apostle would have said so. He coveted the very best for those early Christians, and it is abundantly evident that he considered wifehood and motherhood to be the most desirable state for women.

3. *What the Old Testament Teaches About Marriage.* What the Lord Jesus and His apostles said about this subject is only the confirmation of that which is recorded in the Old Testament concerning marriage, motherhood, and fatherhood. Nowhere is it intimated that the unmarried state is better than the married. On the contrary, such passages as the following speak plainly and definitely; they tell us that God Himself ordained the marital state, even as He created the first woman to be the "helpmeet" of man, that these two might become the progenitors of succeeding generations:

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Prov. 18:22).

"A prudent wife is from the Lord" (Prov. 19:14).

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . .

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

"Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them" (Ps. 127:3-5).

Surely there is a vast difference between what God's Word teaches in regard to marriage, motherhood, and fatherhood, and what is taught by Christian Science.

THE MARRIAGE BOND—A BEAUTIFUL TYPE

Again, God sets the seal of His approval on the divinely ordained marital state by speaking of Himself, in type, as the "Husband" of His people, Israel: "For thy Maker is thine husband . . . the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth" (Isa. 54:5, 6). "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you" (Jer. 3:14).

In the New Testament also Christ is repeatedly spoken of as the Bridegroom, and the church as His bride. This figure sets forth, in beautiful type, the union of Christ and the church. Surely our blessed Lord would not apply any but the most sacred of unions to Himself and His blood-bought saints!

Time and again he used marriage as an illustration in His parables. In answering the demands of those who asked why His disciples did not fast, He spoke of a "certain king which made a marriage for his son" (Matt. 22:2). He told them that they did not fast because the bridegroom was with them.

In II Cor. 11:2 Paul wrote, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, saying, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

Again, all of Eph. 5:22-32 should be read, in this connection; for here the Holy Spirit uses the union of husband and wife as a type of Christ and the church.

Yet again, in Rev. 19:7-9 the prophecy of "the marriage supper of the Lamb" clearly pictures that heavenly scene which will take place when the church is translated, forever to be with the Lord.

And the closing words of the sacred Scriptures give utterance to the prayer of the church in these dark days: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come . . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:17, 21).

How can anyone question the sacredness of the marital state when it is thus set forth, and made sacred by God Himself? It is enough that He speaks of Himself as the Husband, that He exalts the church,

which is of God, and the chosen people, Israel, to the relation of wife and betrothed, the closest, most holy of unions.

And finally, the Lord Jesus set the seal of His approval upon the marriage relationship when He performed His first miracle, during His earthly ministry, at a wedding feast. (See John 2:1-11.) Thus did He bless and sanctify this sacred occasion by His divine presence!

WHAT IF MARRIAGE WERE ABOLISHED?

Let us try to imagine, for a moment, what would happen if all laws concerning marriage were abolished. Homes would be a thing of the past. Those who are now held back by public opinion would cast away all restraints. Childhood would not be a pleasant time of growth, but a time of fear and neglect; for it is the protection of the home which makes possible the normal training of the child.

Christian Science, unchecked, would bring down in ruins every institution of order and decency, because it must, if "left to itself, by the inexorable logic of its own propositions, abolish marriage." And it could not lift up its voice against the evils that would follow, because, according to the teachings of Christian Science, sin and evil do not exist!

For any man or woman to accept the teachings of Christian Science in regard to marriage, is to repudiate the doctrine of Christ and Christianity.

Therefore, Christian friends, let us beware of such false teaching, indeed the "doctrine of demons." Let us warn men and women to cling to the old faith, "once delivered unto the saints" of God.