

A Heart For The Daughter Of The King

1 Samuel 18:17-30 (ESV)

Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife. Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'" And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired, David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually. Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

Biblical *descriptions* should not automatically be taken as *prescriptions* of how to do something

3 Common Mistakes About Marriage That The Ancient World Made (Contract Culture)

1. Marriage was a matter of power dynamics
2. Marriage was the pursuit of personal security
3. Marriage was defined and governed by cultural mores

3 Common Mistakes About Marriage That Our Modern World Makes (Consumer Culture)

1. Marriage is a matter of loving feelings
2. Marriage is a pursuit of personal happiness
3. Marriage is defined and governed by self-written rules

David struggled to understand marriage through the fog of his ancient worldview, but we can see hints of a right understanding in how he realized marriage would affect his relationship with the king

“Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”

“Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king’s son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?”

3 Correct Understandings About Marriage That Christ Restores (Covenant Culture)

1. Marriage is a matter of Gospel witness

Ephesians 5:23, 32 (ESV)

For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ...This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Marriage is not an achievement to be earned, but a gift to be received

2. Marriage is the pursuit of glory

Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Marriage is about salvation more than security, and holiness more than happiness

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV)

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

3. Marriage is defined and governed by God

Ephesians 5:31 (ESV)

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law'

God delights in marriage

Isaiah 62:1-5 (ESV)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

God the Father will eternally delight in the love between His Son and the Church, the bride whom He has purified and purchased with His precious blood.