

PURELATIONSHIPS: Shakin' Up Shackin' Up
Sermon #4, Hebrews 13:4; John 4:16-18

Main Point: Marriage is still God's good design for relationships.

Getting to Know You

1. What TV shows from yesteryear can you think of that showed ideal marriage relationships? (i.e. *Leave it to Beaver*) What shows can you think of which, in the decades since *Leave it to Beaver*, showed people living together? (i.e. *Three's Company*, *Friends*, etc.)

Getting Into the Book

Read Hebrews 13:4

2. Statistics show that the occurrence of couples living together before marriage has increased 10x from 1960 to 2011 (US Census Bureau, 2011). What factors do you think have brought about this change?
3. In what ways has marriage been dishonored in our society? In what practical ways can we honor marriage? Are you honoring marriage by how you speak about it?
4. Why is living together a dishonor to marriage? To inform your answer, notice the order of the pattern set forth in Genesis 2:24.
5. Why is the marriage bed to be undefiled? Review other commands in Scripture for sexual purity: 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.
6. How does the warning at the end of Hebrews 13:4 apply to living together? See also the warnings in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Revelation 21:8.
7. How does Scripture answer the common justifications people use for why they live together? For example, "We're trying out marriage" or "It saves money on rent" or "I don't need a piece of paper to tell me I'm married." What are some practical reasons for not living together?
8. Read John 4:16-18. What does Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well tell us about what He thinks of couples who live together before marriage? (Granted, the passage does not specifically say she was 'living with' the man, but certainly Jesus is pointing her sexual sin.)

Getting Out There

9. What does 1 Corinthians 6:11 say is available to those who acknowledge their sin to Jesus? If you have sinned in the area of living with someone before marriage, confess it to the Lord, receive His forgiveness, and begin to live in purity.

Prayer

Ask the Lord to give you strong Biblical convictions regarding His good plan for marriage, and wisdom as to how to answer those who believe living together before marriage is acceptable.