

DOES GOD REQUIRE CELIBACY?

- I. Why address this question?
 - A. Certain churches require it of some of their members and leaders.
 - B. The immoral sexual revolution of our day has swept the nation.

- II. God requires celibacy outside the bounds of scriptural marriage.
 - A. Only those married to each other may participate. I Cor 7:2
 - B. Marriage is where sexual intimacy is allowed. Heb 13:4
 - C. Outside marriage sexual intimacy is fornication. Col 3:5
 - 1. Living together is sin if not married. "Shacking up."
 - 2. Petting or sexual play is sin.
 - D. Sexual impurity starts in the mind. Mt 5:27-28
 - E. Sexual sins of all types will keep us from heaven. I Cor 6:9
 - F. Our bodies must be kept pure. I Cor 6:13

Note: There are many practical advantages to obeying God's law when it comes to celibacy before marriage. Our world is straining under the burden of sexually transmitted diseases aided by sexual promiscuity. Families and homes are shattered because of sexual immorality and infidelity. Unwanted pregnancy and abortion are increased by pre-marital sex and sexual promiscuity. God's laws are best. If man would but follow the creator's laws his life and world would be in greater harmony.

- III. God does not require celibacy for the "priesthood."
 - A. All Christians are priests. I Pet 2:9
 - B. Christians are given privilege of marriage. I Cor 7:2
 - C. There is no special priesthood of just certain men in the bible.
 - D. There is no difference between the "priesthood" and "laity."
- IV. God's word warns that some will try to impose celibacy.
 - A. Some would teach false doctrine. I Tim 4:1-3
 - B. Forbidding to marry was one thing that they would do.
- V. The apostles were married.
 - A. Some religions appeal to Peter and Paul to justify their teaching.
 - B. Peter was married for he had a mother in law. Mt 8:14, I Cor 9:5
 - C. Paul commended marriage. I Cor 9:5
 - D. Peter was not the first Pope, and unscriptural concept to begin with.
- VI. Other considerations.
 - A. God does allow temporary celibacy in marriage. I Cor 7:1-6
 - 1. For fasting.
 - 2. For prayer.
 - B. Paul does recommend remaining single celibate. I Cor 7:7
 - 1. To dedicate self to Lord.
 - 2. Better to marry, however, than to burn with lust. I Cor 7:9
 - C. Current religious views on religious celibacy are incorrect.
 - D. Current secular views on the sexual revolution are incorrect.
 - E. Must look at God's views as to when celibacy is condoned.