



BIBLE TALK

Mike King

Question: Does God forbid ministers to marry?

Answer: “Clerical celibacy is not a precept of the divine or natural law; neither is a dogma of the catholic church. It is simply an obligatory law of the western church ...” (Bertrand L. Conway, *The Question Box*).

The Bible states: “*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled*” (Heb. 13:4). “*Because of fornications, let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband*” (1 Cor. 7:2). The bishop, therefore must be...the husband of one wife” (1 Tim. 3:2). For an elder to serve, he must “*have children that believe*” (Titus 1:5-6).

The earliest record of celibacy where enforced by law was in about the year of 300 A.D. in Spain, passed by the Council of Elvira (James Gibbons as recorded in *Faith Of Fathers*).

Though practiced by some, it is without the authority of the scriptures. “*The Spirit expressly says, that in after times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of devils, speaking lies hypocritically, and having their conscience branded. They will forbid marriage and will enjoin abstinence from foods*” (1Tim. 4:1-3, New Testament, Official Catholic Edition).

It is honorable in all according to Heb. 13:5. Every man is to have his own wife (1 Cor. 7:2) and continue to understand that it is better to marry than to burn, (1 Cor. 7:2). Peter was married (Matt. 8:14). Paul had the right to “*lead about a wife*” who was a believer as did the other apostles (1 Cor. 9:5). The Bible has therefore never forbidden marriage to anyone who marries scripturally.

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