

II. SIN'S DESTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE

GENESIS 3:7, 16

Why is the marriage relationship so difficult? ANSWER: Sin cursed it. (READ Gen. 3:1-7; 16)
 Then when sin entered the world, everything that was so perfect is now effected by the curse. That wonderful relationship that worked with no problems will now be an upward battle - that is when man tries to make it work without God's life-changing power.

* BEWARE OF FLESHLY TENDENCIES IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

Two sinful tendencies caused by the curse of sin:

A. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED PHYSICAL (_____) RELATIONSHIP (v. 7)

In what way were Adam and Eve's eyes opened? Did they not see each others' nakedness prior? Yes. But now a selfish self-consciousness resulted from sin. Now sin caused a _____ (obsession) with each other's nudity. They now focused on what made them different, rather than what made them alike.

Satan ruins things in two ways:

- 1) He either puts too much attention on something (making it an _____ - an idol)
- or 2) He alters its God-intended design (making it a _____)

God created sex (see Heb. 13:4), not Satan (he perverted it).

God designed sex to be an unselfish _____ only for marriage (Read and explain I Cor. 7:1-5). Sex is not only for procreation but for _____.

Why so many problems in marriage?

- 1) It is forced to function under the curse because of man's sin
- 2) It's corrupted because of Satan's efforts to destroy it.

Gen. 4:19 - _____ Lamech violated the principle that the two become one flesh.

Gen. 9:20-25- _____ thoughts and words

Gen. 16:2-4 - _____ by Abraham

Gen. 19:4-6 - _____

Gen. 34:1-2 - _____ (sex apart from marriage) Also _____

Gen. 38:13-18- _____ (sexual relationship within a family) Also _____ (v. 24)

Gen. 29:7-12- _____ (by Potiphar's wife)

Our society today looks on these things as virtuous.

B. SIN PRODUCED: A DISTORTED _____ RELATIONSHIP (V. 16)

When sin entered the world, human nature (being under the curse) would rebel against the proper exercise of marital roles. Hence, God gives (in the list of other curses) the curse on marriage.

1. IN THE FLESH, WIVES WILL DESIRE TO _____ THEIR HUSBANDS (V. 16B)



"Desire" - from a root word meaning to have a violent craving for something (Delitzch)

The idea of the two words "desire & ruling" together is only used by God in a negative sense in the Bible (see Gen. 4:7). In 4:7, God is warning Cain that sin desires to control him, but that he must conquer it!

NOTE 3:6 in context: Eve wanted authority that God never gave her. She ate the fruit and led her husband to also. This is the first time a woman ever led her husband.

Adam submitted to her (v. 17). He "hearkened unto" her voice. Man is to do all the leading according to the Word of God. Paul proves this point using this very incident in Genesis to do so. (I Tim. 2:11-14) ---- Since the fall, women seek to _____ or _____ authority.

2. IN THE FLESH, HUSBANDS WILL TEND TO CRUSH (_____) THEIR WIVES (V. 16C)

Every sensible man knows he should be the leader; the problem he now has is that the woman will not always want to be led. This will tend to cause a man to be _____, and to use his brute force to compel the weaker vessel to submit, and this is wrong! This is the way the flesh wants to fulfill a God-ordained role. Since the fall, men seek to suppress, dominate women. Be a dictator, subdue, oppress, crush, and treat like a slave. EX: Male chauvinism.

Conclusion: The reason why many "Christian" marriages are not what they should be is because (although you want to do right) you are trying to make your marriage work by you own power and wisdom -- in the _____

The key is both of you being saved and _____ (See: Ephes. 5:18-22)!