

# Sunday School

## The Basics of Biblical Counseling Counseling Marriage Problems

Cont. from last week

### Integration

We are not just looking for a solution to one problem. We are looking at spiritual growth in all of life. The goal is greater than one problem.

The local church is also an integral part for accountability and discipline, if necessary (Matt. 18:15-17).

### Counseling Marriage Problems

1. The Bible presents marriage in the highest and most joyful terms.
  - a) There is the purpose of marriage – to reflect the marriage between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:22-32).
  - b) There is the joy of marriage: covenant companion, one flesh, procreation/parents, growing old together (Gen. 2:18, 23-25; Prv. 5:15-19; Eccl. 9:9).
2. Sin has vandalized the marriage bond so that
  - a) It does not reflect Christ and the Church, and thus a vandalized marriage does not honor God.
  - b) It creates a unique misery, pain, and suffering, that can consume each spouse. The misery of a vandalized marriage steals joy, cripples usefulness, sets a bad example to our children, and a bad witness to the world.
3. What makes marriage a miserable, God-dishonoring, corrosive relationship?
  - a) It is not marriage problems. Everyone has marriage problems because two sinners are married! (See Dave Harvey, *When Sinners Say I Do*).
  - b) First, there are the sin problems
  - c) Second, there are the sinful responses to the sin problems
  - d) Third, there is the growing disaffection, distrust, and dissatisfaction that erode the marriage, increasing its misery.
4. What are the Sin problems?

