

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skills in Godly Marriage - The Husband - Pt 2

A. Why the Husband first

1. Apostolic Order, wife first - Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Pe 3:1-7
2. Edenic Order, Adam first - Ge 2:16-17; 3:3, 9ff

B. Characteristics of a Godly Husband

1. No such thing as an all godly or ungodly man or woman - dealing with dominant trait
 - a. the godly man displays the qualities of a wise man
 - b. the godly man displays intimate enjoyment of his wife
 - c. the godly man displays appreciation of his good wife

2. Qualities of a Wise Man

- a. the qualities of a wise man make for a good husband
- b. Proverbs seems to say more about a bad wife than a bad husband
 - i. no male version of Pro 31
 - ii. Solomon, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit like the Apostles in the NT, is not sexist
 - is not affirming to men and hard on women
 - is speaking truth
 - iii. We don't read the Bible through the eyes of our culture

c. Three questions and answers

- i. who are the frequently-encountered negative models in Proverbs?
 - the fool, sluggard, thief, liar, mocker, unjust, drunkard, brawler
- ii. In what gender are these people usually depicted
 - virtually always male
- iii. In what gender is wisdom depicted in at length in chap 1,8, and 9?
 - as a woman

d. Rational:

- i. The man is to lead, the wife is to help him
- ii. The things that make man a failure in life will make him a failure in marriage
- iii. The things that make a man wise and godly will make him a wise and godly husband

3. Intimate Enjoyment of His Wife - Ge 2:24

- a. note the order - Marriage then sex, either both or neither
 - i. morally, one night stand or co-habitation - the same sin
 - ii. Fornication is a moral crime against God
- b. The Bible portrays married sex as a blessing - a gift from God
 - i. enjoy water from his own cistern, delight himself in her body - Pr 5:15-19
 - ii. Vs 19 uses verb *shagah*
 - usually translated err or go astray - Pr 5:23; 20:1

- here be intoxicated or be wholly captivated by her so that one is no longer in his own power, can no longer restrain himself,

iii. The Pope declared men can't lust after their wives

- Solomon doesn't agree

- God designed sex to be as it is, not to be like a hand shake

c. Protests about this is about the husband's needs

i. the passage is talking about the husband - a warning against adultery

ii. Men could protest that they are singled out as adultery risks

iii. Paul clarifies in 1 Co 7:1-5, take care of each other's needs

4. Appreciation -

a. Based on the fear of the Lord - Pr 31:29-30

b. Why she is a Godsend to her husband - Pr 31:11-12

i. she wholeheartedly embraces God's plan for her

ii. She is not numbered among the bitter women professing religiosity seeking loopholes in God's revelation

iii. God gives her from her husband what she desires - trust (vs 11); praise (vs 29-30); public acclaim (vs 31)

iv. Trust demonstrated by freedom to exercise her wisdom and abilities

- supplying for the needs of the household - Pr 31:13-15

- real estate actions - vs 16

- charitable endeavors - vs 20

- owns her own business - vs 24

- enjoys the fruit of her labor - vs 31

- has public prominence - vs 31

c. Godly male leadership

i. Is not

- keeping her in the home - her whole world is the kids and husband

- her not having any interests of her own

- her afraid to step out beyond her little rut

ii. Is - 1 Pe 3:7

- working with one's life partner

- leading her to become all that God wants her to be

- showing confidence and trust in her

d. Men should be quick to praise,

i. the surest way to encourage good behavior in others

ii. Most often, wives feel crushed under the lack of appreciation from husbands and children

5. Sidebar: Dynamic Wives

a. no need to feel threatened by a wise, talented wife

b. when you work as a team, you both benefit from the abilities and gifting of the partner

C. Characteristics of a Ungodly Husband

1. Displays the Qualities of a Fool
 - a. Doesn't listen to godly counsel - Pr 12:15; 14:15
 - i. doesn't mean he has to agree with his wife - Ge 3:6b; 16:2; Job 2:9
 - ii. if she doesn't bring something to the table, why did you marry her
 - b. She shares image of God - Ge 5:1-2; a fellow heir of the grace of life - 1 Pe 3:7
2. Quarrelsome - 20:3
 - a. Welcomes a fight (not a disagreement) and enjoys domestic strife
 - b. "Clearing the air" is a harmful lie due to the damage it can cause
3. Abusive - 29:11
 - a. lit. all his spirit a stupid man discharges
 - b. gives full vent to his temper, not self controlled
4. Refuses to Learn from Mistakes
 - a. Proverbs paints a grim picture - 4:19; 26:11; 27:22
 - i. the gambler or investor in fantasy get rich schemes
 - ii. The drug addict, alcoholic that won't change
 - b. making mistakes is normal, but will we learn from them, receive correction , choose wise paths instead of the same old ones
5. Destructive
 - a. troubles his own family - 11:29a
 - b. examples - Dathan and Abiram - Num 16; Achan - Jos 7; Eli - 1 Sam 2; Saul with Jonathan - 1 Sam 14; David w Absalom - 2 Sam 13-14
6. Does not Discipline his Children - 13:24
 - a. man sets the pace through consistent training and deliberate discipline
 - b. should be proactive, not reactive
 - c. today's gentle parenting is allowing the foolishness in a child's heart to remain
7. The flipside of the wise man's positive qualities
 - a. See the first two pages
 - b. The entire book of Proverbs is the Masculine equivalent of Proverbs 31
8. Sidebar: Dealing with Conflict with a Believing Spouse
 - a. a husband should not fight with his believing wife b/c
 - i. many Proverbs praise self-control and condemn giving in to temper - 14:29; 16:32; 17:27; 20:3
 - ii. He is to care for her as Christ cares for the Church - Eph 5:23,25-27
 - iii. "She started it," even if true doesn't excuse the husband from responding like Christ - Mt 5:38-42; 1 Pe 2:21-23; 3:8-9
 - b. a wife should not fight with her believing husband b/c
 - i. see "a." above
 - ii. Called to submit to him - Eph 5:22,24,33; Col 3:18; 1 Pe 3:1-6
 - iii. see "c." above
 - iv. Seeing herself free to fight with her husband is not emulating Pr 31:11 and cannot expect the blessing of Pr 31:12