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2 **MARRIAGE BASICS**

3 **The Need to Honor Marriage**

- In today's world, many have the idea that marriage is disposable
- People get married without any commitment to work at the marriage and glorify God
- Over 3/4 of a million marriages disintegrate every year.

4 **How Honoring Marriage
Glorifies God**

- The world is not impressed with miraculous healings, or extraordinary gifts that some claim to have. It is impressed with two things:
 - People that follow God's financial principles and are thus financially free
 - Marriages that stay together in our day and time

5 **THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE**

6 **Companionship**

- Genesis 2:18 -- "*And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him*"
- Your spouse should be your best friend
 - Don't have HIS and HER friends
 - Make friends with other couples

7 **Contentment**

- In the physical relationship—be content with spouse
 - Principle of yielding (1 Corinthians 7; Romans 12:10-- *in honor preferring one another*)
 - Principle of self control (Hebrews 13:4)--*Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

8 **Contentment (2)**

- In finances
 - Too many want within the first two years of their marriage what took their parents 20 years to get
 - The result is financial bondage
 - Comes from focusing on material satisfaction instead of improving the marriage

9 **Completion**

- Genesis 2:18-24
 - "*And Adam said. . . she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.*"
 - God created a lack in Adam's life that could be filled by Eve. The word helpmeet means "a helper suitable for him" and "a completion."
- Does your spouse complete you?
 - Christ completes us spiritually (Colossians 2:9-10).
 - But unless you have the gift of singleness, your mate will complete you in other ways.
- Genesis 2:23 -- 1+1+1=1

10 **Child-bearing**

- 1st command in Scripture is, "*Be fruitful [Hebrew parah, make increase after your kind], and multiply [Hebrew rabah, increase with exceeding abundance of children], and replenish the earth [Hebrew male, fill up the world to overflowing]. . .*" (Genesis 1:28; 9:1).
 - Never canceled in Scripture.
 - Some, however, may not be able to have more children for health reasons.

11 **Child-bearing (2)**

- There is a danger in Christians having too few children.
 - Humanists, pagans and heathen are flooding the world, yet Christians are keeping their families small.
 - At 1.8 children per family, only 40 people will exist from that family after five generations
 - With 3 children per family, 363
 - With 6, there will be 19,666 in your family
 - With 12, you will have 271,455 descendants
 - Teach your child(ren) to value children.

12 **Child-bearing (3)**

- What if:
 - Jesse had been told to stop with only seven children?
 - Jacob (Israel) had been told that eleven boys was already too many?
- Charles Wesley, the great hymn writer was the 22nd child in his family.
- Susannah Wesley was the 24th child in her family.
- John Wesley, the great founder of the Methodist movement was the 26th child in his family.

13 **Certainty**

- The covenant nature of marriage means divorce is not an option.
 - Husband should lay down life for his wife (Ephesians 5:25) – to protect his wife spiritually, physically, and emotionally.
 - Children need certainty that their parents love them and will protect them.
 - The wife is to protect the home (Titus 2:3-5).
 - Parents are to protect the children to raise up a Godly seed (Malachi 2:15).

14 **Titus 2:3-5**

- *The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*
- *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*
- *To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.*

15 **Malachi 2:15**

- *And did not he make one [MARRIAGE]? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.*

- *For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: [DIVORCE].*

16 **Malachi 2:16**

- *For one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: Therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.*
- God says that marital problems leading to divorce are primarily spiritual problems.
 - The first cure for marital problems is for both partners to deepen their walk with the Lord.
 - “Treacherously” = with deceit and unfaithfulness; not keeping a covenant

17 **Christ-likeness**

- Ephesians 5:31-33--Marriage pictures relationship between Christ and believers.
 - *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

18 **Jewish wedding ceremony**

- Groom pays price for bride
- Marriage made legal but not consummated (betrothal)
- Approximately one year goes by – only during this time was divorce permitted
- Groom prepares house
- Groom comes to retrieve bride; best man announces arrival with trumpet; guests return for wedding feast

19 **Christ-likeness (2)**

- Christ made a lasting covenant
- Christ is the head of our church
- Christ cares for and protects His bride (Ephesians 5:23)
- Christ purifies us by His Word (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- Christ will never divorce His bride, even though she is sometimes unfaithful to Him (James 4:4). [See also Malachi 2:13-16; Hosea 2:14-20; Colossians 3:12-13; Mark 11:25-26.]

20 **The nature of a covenant**

- Genesis 15:12-17
- Marriage is a covenant
 - Malachi 2:14 -- *"She is thy companion and the wife of thy covenant."*
 - Covenant based on trust between parties; contract based on distrust.
 - Covenant based on unlimited responsibility; contract limits liability.
 - Covenant unalterable by circumstances; contract voidable by mutual consent.

21 **THE PLATFORM OF MARRIAGE**

22 **Genesis 2:21-22**

- *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*
- *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

23 **Genesis 2:23-24**

- *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*
- *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

24 **1. Leave**

- A man is to leave father and mother when he gets married.
 - Scripture teaches that we are to honor parents.
 - So “leaving” doesn’t mean that you are to forsake parents.
 - Rather, it means to loosen your dependency upon them. No other human relationship is to be more important than your marriage.
 - Parents, you have limited time to train children.

25 **2. Cleave**

- *Dabaq* = how skin sticks to bones
- Use of the word in Deuteronomy:
 - “*You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.* (Deut. 10:20 NASB).
 - “*.... To love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him.” (Deut. 11:22 NSB).*

26 **Cleave (2)**

- “*You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.*” (Deut. 13:4 NASB).
- “*....by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life.....” (Deut. 30:20 NASB).*

27 **Cleaving = commitment**

28 **The core questions of life**

- Spirit - Do you care about me?
- Soul – Will you pursue me? Will you respond to me?
- Mind – Will you consider my thoughts? Will you let me influence you?
- Strength – Do you appreciate my help, my provision, my protection?
- Source: Chris Hogan, Noblecall.org

29 **It Takes Three**

*I once thought marriage took
Just two to make a go
But now I am convinced
It takes the Lord also.*

*And not one marriage fails
Where Christ is asked to enter
As lovers come together*

With Jesus at the center.

30 **It Takes Three (2)**

*But marriage seldom thrives
And homes are incomplete
Till he is welcomed there
To help avert defeat.*

*In homes where God is first
It is obvious to see
Those unions really work
For marriage still takes three.
-- (Perry Tanksley)*

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31 **THE PROBLEM WITH MARRIAGE**

32 **Sinners are allowed to marry...**

- There is no perfect marriage because every marriage has 2 sinners in it.
 - Except for the marriage of Christ to His bride
- All good marriages are constantly under attack.
 - Song of Solomon 2:15 -- *Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.*

33 **The beginning of the problem**

- Genesis 3:16 -- *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*

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34 **Comparing meanings**

- Genesis 4:6-7 -- *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

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35 **What a woman desires**

- What it isn't:
 - NOT to rule over (traditional interpretation)
- What is is:
 - To have a relationship
 - To give input
 - To have intimacy

36 **How a man reacts to his wife**

- He reacts to his wife as he should react toward sin (part of the curse)
 - Cuts off communication

- Claims authority and emphasizes his position
- Removes his presence; walks away
- Views his wife as an enemy
- Becomes angry and combatant
- Sees challenges as dangerous
- This is usually in response to a perceived lack of respect
 - He feels like he can't do anything right in her eyes

37 **1. Ignorance**

- Not understanding submission
 - *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*
- Not understanding Love vs. Respect (1 Peter 3)
 - *Wives, reverence your husbands. Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;*
 - Acknowledge authority

38 **Reverence (continued)**

- *While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*
 - Fear = respect
- *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;*
- *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*
 - Meek = Not demanding own rights
 - Quiet = Not worrying; trusting your husband and God to work out the situation

39 **Reverence (continued)**

- *5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:*
- *6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.*
- Sara called Abraham "master" or "lord" to demonstrate respect.

40 **Husband, love your wife**

- *Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

41 **Loving your wife**

- Treat her with honor and respect
 - Listen to her
 - Regard her viewpoints as valuable
 - Handle with care; she is fragile
 - She is the fragile container out of which your greatest blessings will flow

42 **Ephesians 5:19**

- Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them
- Love
 - Maintain a lifelong courtship
 - "CHERISH"
 - Listen
 - Charity = Love in action
 - Good manners
 - Tenderness == "Velvet steel"

43 **Be not bitter**

- to embitter. exasperate
 - 2a) render angry, indignant
 - 2b) to be embittered, irritated
 - 2c) to visit with bitterness, to grieve (deal bitterly with)
 - 48 people in Scripture are mentioned as having a problem with anger; 46 are men.
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44 **The "heavenly body" principle**

- The condition of a wife's heart or of her relationship to her husband is often REFLECTIVE of the condition of the husband's heart.
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45 **Speaking without listening**

- Proverbs 18:13 *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*
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46 **2. Insecurity**

- The Dating Mindset = Divorce
 - There's no Leaving the Cleaving
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47 **Iniquity**

- Lust of the Flesh
 - Pornography
 - Lustful eyes
- Lust of the Eyes
 - Greed
 - Materialism
 - Workaholism
- Pride of Life
 - The Danger of Anger
 - The Root of Bitterness

48 **THE PARTS WITHIN MARRIAGE**

49 **Man's role as visionary**

- Man is the head of the home (under Christ)
 - Responsible for direction
 - Responsible for final decision-making (the buck stops here)
 - Responsible for vision
 - Children get their idea of what God is like from Dad

50 **Wife's role as heart radar**

- Wife sees near-term danger better than husband
- Wife is the "heart" of the home.
 - She sets the atmosphere of the home
 - Peaceful?
 - Organized?
 - Calm or worry?
 - Contentious or loving?

51 **Guard your heart**

- Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.
- Four chambers of the heart
 - Spirit
 - Emotions
 - Mind
 - Will
- Men tend to be logic-based; women think with the "four chambers"

52 **5 key questions to ask your wife**

- What do you believe God wants you (us) to do? (Spirit)
- What do you think about that? (Mind)
- How does that make you feel? (Emotions)
- So what is the one thing you (we) cannot fail to do? (Will)
- How do you believe God has equipped and gifted you to deal with this situation? (Strength)