

“ENGAGING THE CONFLICT WITH THE STRATEGIC WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE”

March 10, 2021

ACTS 19, 20:17-38 and other selected support Scriptures

- I. *A review of Paul’s preparation of the Ephesians - Ac 20:17-38*
 - A. *He held back nothing that was PROFITABLE v. 20*
 - B. *He testified that the gospel was about REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD and FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. That means that they would have to change their mind about who the Sovereign One was and put their trust in the Son of the Sovereign One, the Lord Jesus Christ v. 27*
 - C. *He testified of the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD v. 24*
 - D. *The main focus of his preaching was PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.*
 - E. *He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD.*
- II. **Husbands Submitting to their Wives - Eph 5:25-33**
 - A. **The Establishment and Purpose of Marriage – excuse me while I rant**
 1. **The Establishment**
 - a. **God establishes marriage - Ge 1:27-28;**
 - b. **God created a garden**
 - i. **He put man into tend and keep – Ge 2:7-8,15,**
 - ii. **Man was incomplete by himself, so God created a woman for him in his God given purpose - Ge 2:18-25**
 2. **The Purpose**
 - a. **God’s created garden - Ge 2:8,15,**
 - b. **Ge 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**
 - i. **Fruitfulness – procreation, kids, multiplication of population**
 - ii. **Dominion – extend God’s purpose and order beyond the garden**
 3. **Why is this important**
 - a. **Anything that God establishes is good**
 - b. **Anything that God establishes has purpose**
 - i. **More than personal happiness**
 - ii. **Has to do the extension of His kingdom**
 - iii. **Works best when done His way**
 - **Unbelievers can be married, even happily**
 - **Believers can be very unhappily married**
 - **Believers can understand that God calls us and enables us to live as a light to bring others to Him**
 - B. **The Manner of Love**
 1. **Sacrificial – vs 25**
 - a. **Husbands, love your wives**
 - i. **Continues Paul’s explanation of mutual submission – vs 21**

- ii. A command that is against his normal nature
 - Therefore, has need of the Spirit's filling – Ro 8:2
 - needed for the purpose of God – vs 32
 - b. just as Christ also loved the church
 - i. He loved the Church before the foundation of the world – Rev 13:8
 - Before the creation of man
 - Before the fall of man
 - ii. and gave Himself for her
 - b/c it is His character to be gracious – Ro 5:7-8
 - God's love is not object oriented, not b/c of works of righteousness – Tit 3:5
 - c. a husband is not commanded to love b/c of what his wife is or isn't
 - i. but b/c it is the will of God – vs 2, 10, 17
 - ii. not based on her beauty or character, those may be lacking of fade b/c her need of the healing and restorative power of love
 - iii. he is the example of Christ in His relationship to the Church – vs 32
2. Purifying – vs 26-27
- a. Divine love does not simply condemn wrong in those loved, but seeks to cleanse them of it
 - i. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. - Is 1:18b
 - ii. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. - Mic 7:19b
 - iii. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." - Jer 31:34b
 - b. All sins are forgiven at the moment of salvation, but periodic cleansing is still necessary – Jo 1:9 – illustrated by foot washing – Jo 13
 - c. Sanctification is the process by which God conforms us into the image of Christ thru trials, showing us what is in us, what needs to change and by transforming our minds so that we might put off and put on thru the power of the Spirit - vs 27
 - d. If a husband is going to love like Christ, he is to be about the same kind of activity as Christ
3. Caring – vs 28-30
- a. Probably one of the biggest areas of complaint from wives
 - b. If a husband is going to love like Christ, the illustration here is that he will love her like he does already love himself – vs 29
 - i. **ektrepho** - to rear up to maturity, to cherish or train:--bring up, nourish.
 - provide with the food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition.
 - keep (a feeling or belief) in one's mind, typically for a long time.
 - ii. **thalpo** - to brood, to foster:--cherish.
 - protect and care for (someone) lovingly.
 - hold (something) dear.
 - keep (a hope or ambition) in one's mind.

- iii. Caring for the whole person - providing what is needed, physically, spiritually, and psychologically
 - iv. Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. - 1 Pet 3:7
 - He is to consider his wife, with understanding and sensitivity,
 - He is to treat her accordingly - Weaker vessel
 - weak – physical? mental?
 - Fragile - finer
 - He is to recognize her as a co-heir of the grace of life
 - c. he who loves his wife loves himself. – vs 27-28
4. Unbreakable – vs 31
- a. Quote from Ge 2:24
 - b. One reason for failure in marriage – one or both of the parties fails to leave and cleave
 - i. The merging of two families is what the couple need to work through to find what works for them,
 - ii. not what worked for their parents
 - iii. b/c they had to figure out how to merge two sets of family values, traditions, also
 - c. *kataleipo* - to leave down, behind; to abandon, have remaining, forsake, leave, reserve.
 - d. *proskollao* - to glue to, to adhere, cleave, join (self).
 - i. Why God hates divorce – Mal 2:16
 - ii. The damage of tearing two glued together souls is terrible
- C. The Motive for Loving your Wife – vs 32-33
- 1. Consideration of God's purpose in this New Covenant Spirit filled marriage
 - a. a great – *megas* – big, exceedingly, great(-est), high, large, loud, mighty
 - b. mystery - *musterion* - a secret or "mystery,"
 - i. something that had not been revealed before-hand – saints of the old covenant didn't nor could know this kind of relationship with God
 - ii. The Spirit came upon some for certain service, but God seemingly was afar off, unreachable, with need of a mediator and sacrifices
 - iii. Now, we have a relationship with Christ, the Spirit lives in us, empowers us to live godly as an example to a world that needs to know Him
 - 2. Though this has a greater meaning expressed, it is revealed through mutual submission of the two parties in the marriage