

Strengthening the Bond – What the Bible Teaches on Marriage

Trials in Marriage

Introduction

1. False and misleading idea of life in this fallen world: health and wealth
2. Prosperity and plenty can take hold of us with the result that we think that trouble and affliction are an exception and not the rule.
3. Marriage Form: “Whereas married persons are generally, by reason of sin, subject to many troubles and afflictions...”

The Reality of Trials

1. Wedding takes place outside of Paradise & it is 2 sinners who say “I do.”
2. Sin has affected everything. Evident in the first marriage, home and family (temptation, blame shifting, sweat in work, child-bearing would be painful, death).
3. What are some of the trials we meet with in marriage?
 - Sickness
 - Infertility
 - Loss of a child
 - Rebellion of a child
 - Job loss
 - Busyness
 - Conflict
 - Death of a spouse
 - 2nd marriage

The Purpose of Trials

1. **Calling** from **Sovereign** – in the trials of life, God is calling us!
2. **Conviction** of **sin** – trials have a way of reminding us of our sins (Gen. 42:21; 44:16; Job. 13:26)
3. **Conformity** to **Saviour** – Rom. 8:29. That is why He puts us into the furnace of affliction. Whitefield: “Afflictions don’t bring the dross; they reveal the dross.” Through trials, God brings our sins to the surface in order to expose them to us and separate them from us.

The Comfort in Trials

1. The Father administers the trials
 - a. These trials do not come by chance, but by His Fatherly hand (A. 27)
 - b. Ps. 119:71, 75: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted... In faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me"
 - c. John Flavel: "It is the great support and solace of the saints in all the distresses that befall them here, that there is a wise Spirit sitting in all the wheels of motion, and governing the most eccentric creatures and their most pernicious designs to blessed and happy issues."
 - d. Thomas Boston: "Whatsoever crook is in one's lot, it is of God's making"
 - e. Thomas Brooks: "There is no sickness so little God but hath a finger in it, though it be but the acting of the little finger."
2. The Word instructs in trials
 - a. Ps. 119:50: This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me
 - b. Charles Bridges: We have always some word exactly suited to our affliction
3. The Support the Lord gives
 - a. He is with His people in their trials (Is. 43:2)
 - b. Who can separate us from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:31)

The Mutual Assistance in Trials

1. W_____ beside each other
2. L_____ to each other
3. Seek to U_____ each other
4. P_____ each other
5. P_____ for each other
6. E_____ each other