

Husbands and Wives

1 Peter 3:1-7

Introduction

1. The purpose of this lesson is to set for God's pattern for marriage—the role of the husband and the wife in cooperation with one another.
2. We live in a culture that seeks to do two things concerning marriage:
 - a. Pervert the two roles that make up this relationship.
 - b. Diminish the significance of marriage all together.
3. People in Jesus' day had similar attitudes toward marriage according to (Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 10:4-12).
4. In this lesson we will begin at the same point Jesus did—“*from the beginning.*”

Discussion

I. Marriage In the Beginning

- A. The pattern from the beginning is the pattern for all time:
 1. As Jesus pointed out in Mark 10:6-9, “*From the beginning of creation...*”
 2. He quotes from Gen. 1:27; 2:24.
 3. God made them male and female: He made them as a pair which must remain united.
 4. And God joined them together in marriage as “*one flesh*”: permanent joining together.
 5. Jesus' point is that what God has joined together, let not man separate
 6. I.e. God created this relationship, let not man cheapen it by separating it as the many of the Jews did in Jesus' day and as many people do in our culture today.
- B. Lessons from the first marriage.
 1. Gen. 2:18: Man had a need; woman was the only one suitable.
 - a. The man who is in a position to be married must understand the value of a wife.
 - b. She fulfills a need which no other creature on this earth can fulfill.
 - c. There must be a sense of respect for her—she is a gift from God.
 - d. Likewise, the wife must respect that she was created to fulfill a very specific and important role; therefore she must consider her responsibility with greatest regard.
 2. Gen. 2:24: Man leaves father and mother.
 - a. His dependence upon his parents has ceased as he, in turn, becomes dependent upon his wife.
 - b. Leave and cleave means to hold onto spouse as to own flesh.
 - c. That was God's plan.
 3. Gen. 2:24: God joined together; therefore those who enter this relationship should emphasize in their hearts its permanence.
- C. Marriage after the fall:
 1. The marriage relationship was set in the beginning and, as Jesus pointed out, nothing has changed concerning God's pattern.
 2. We do learn that, as a consequence of sin, fulfilling the roles of husband and wife became more difficult.
 3. Gen. 3:17-19: Man—always planned to provide, but after the fall his job would become much more difficult, “*In toil you shall eat of it...In the sweat of your face...*”
 4. Gen. 3:16: Women—likewise, role was unchanged, just made more difficult, “*I will greatly multiply your sorrow in conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.*”
 5. God gave responsibilities to both the man and the women which are needed in order for the relationship to be complete.
 6. When both the husband and the wife are fulfilling their roles according to GOD'S PATTERN, then any marriage will succeed.

7. Prov. 3:5-6 applies to marriages as well as everything else in life.

II. The Role of the Husband

- A. Eph. 5:25-33: Loves wife as Christ loves the church.
 1. Vs. 25: As Christ gave Himself for her—so the husband should do for his wife.
 - a. Jesus gave His life to provide life and an eternal dwelling place for His church
 - b. Likewise, the husband is to give his life for his wife to provide for her in love.
 2. Vs. 26-27: Jesus sanctifies and cleanses the church to bestow great honor upon her.
 - a. The husband should seek to bestow honor and glory upon his wife as well.
 - b. As Jesus came to serve the church, so the husband must serve the needs of his wife.
 3. Vs. 28: He who loves his wife loves himself
 4. Vs. 29-32: Relationship as one flesh.
 5. Vs. 33: The end result to be mutual respect and honor.
- B. Col. 3:19: Love and not be bitter.
 1. Sometimes one is bitter toward his wife if he thinks she is not “pulling her weight”.
 2. If a wife is not fulfilling her role, many times it is become a husband is not fulfilling his.
 3. The solution is to show love according to God’s pattern, and avoid bitterness.
- C. 1 Pet. 3:7: Dwell with her with understanding.
 1. What kind of understanding?
 - a. Differences in woman’s needs than man’s (not buying power tools for birthday).
 - b. Understanding of God’s pattern for husbands and wives.
 - c. Understanding of your need to care for her and to cherish her.
 - d. Understanding of how Christ loved the church.
 - e. Understanding of her difficulties.
 2. Give honor to wife as to weaker vessel:
 - a. Context of weaker vessel: 1 Pet 2:13-3:1
 - i. 2:13-14: Submit to authorities
 - ii. 2:18: Submit to masters, even harsh ones.
 - iii. 3:1: Submit to husbands.
 - b. Context speaks of authority, not to physical strength (not every wife is weaker than husband).
 - c. Wife is to submit to or respect authority of husband.
 - d. Husband is not to abuse His authority, but he has care over her; he is responsible for providing and honoring her as Christ does for us.
 - e. Her life is in his hands; therefore He must give her the greatest of care.
 3. Acknowledge equality: How we treat our wives affects our relationship with God!

III. The Role of the Wife

- A. Eph. 5:22-24, 33: Submit as to the Lord.
 1. Observe, Christ gave His life for the church, thus we, in turn, give ourselves to His service (2 Cor. 5:15).
 2. Likewise, the husband gives his life for his wife; the wife in turn must give herself to service of her husband.
 3. Just as being a Christian is a blessing, so is being a wife!
 4. Therefore, be subject to your husband in everything—this is God’s plan.
- B. Col. 3:18: Submission to the husband is fitting to the Lord.
- C. 1 Pet. 3:1-6: Submit to husbands.
 1. Vs. 1-2: Regardless of their character:
 - a. If good husband, then submit as to the Lord (gratitude).
 - b. If bad husband, then seek to convert through godly example (godly love).
 2. Vs. 3-4: Let adornment be of character, not only outward.
 - a. Good to adorn selves.

- b. Many women put more emphasis on outward adornment while character suffers.
 - c. Adornment of the heart: attitude, character, good works.
 - d. Meekness and quietness: not contentious and outspoken (Prov. 21:9, 19).
- D. Learn to love husbands and be keepers at home Titus 2:4-5
- 1. Taught to love husbands—contrast with our culture where love is a feeling.
 - a. Some fall in and out of love.
 - b. Husbands and wives to love one another with a love that is learned—one that remains even in the midst of disagreements.
 - c. One that will not harm the other, no matter what transpires.
 - 2. Keepers at home:
 - a. Keeper = ruler
 - b. Wife is one that rules in the home. That is her domain.
 - c. The husband gives his life to provide just as Christ gave to provide.
 - d. But, as Christ has given charge of earthly conduct of church to the hands of men, so the husband should trust the wife in the conduct of household.
 - e. But the wife should understand that her rule in the home is to be done in respect to the authority of husband, as the church to Christ.
 - f. It is a responsibility that must be taken on with diligence and care.
- E. Prov. 31: The worthy Woman
- 1. Does keeper at home mean it is wrong for wives to make money?
 - a. 31:16: Buys a field and plants a vineyard.
 - b. 31:18: Good merchandise.
 - c. Nothing wrong with making money, when done with proper attitude.
 - 2. Notice the difference between the worthy woman and the “professional woman”:
 - 3. 31:10-12: Respects her husband’s trust and the authority he gives her in the home.
 - 4. 31:13-20: Industrious, hardworking, productive, not lazy or idle.
 - 5. 31:21, 27-28: She looks to the ways of her household.
 - a. Her productiveness is for her household.
 - b. Though she works, her heart is in the home—that is her desire.
 - c. Many women have pursued careers to the detriment of the home.
 - d. Nothing wrong with women working, but seek to care for the home and the family first. Let that be your goal, for that is your role in God’s pattern.

Conclusion

- 1. The role for husbands and wives as defined by God is that of mutual honor and respect.
- 2. As one flesh, they form a symbiotic relationship wherein they provide the needs for one another and complete one another.
- 3. If one seeks to diminish the value of the other they are foolish.
- 4. But when both have the humility to submit to God’s pattern, then their relationship will be strong, pleasing to one another and pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

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