

## TEACHING NOTES (underlined words indicate answers for the handout)

### Session III — MARRIAGE IS A BIBLICAL PARTNERSHIP

#### INTRODUCTION

According to our secular society, it seems marriage is no longer a viable institution for our day. We will get married if we want to and we will divorce if we want to. What really seems to matter is the existential response as to what I want or what is best for me. We live in a very selfish world.

Marriage, from that perspective, is in no way like marriage from God's perspective. Those who do not understand marriage from the way God planned it will never enjoy it to God's fullness. The Bible gives to us God's design and plan for marriage. Any other design will not be as fulfilling as God's design.

The Bible is filled with wonderful marital gems. In this session we want to look to the Scriptures and understand just how God planned marriage. The Bible is filled with great stories, instructions, parables, prophecies, and poetry on the beauty, the love, the struggle, and the fruit of a godly married life.

We want to learn who created marriage, how long it is to last, and how important a Biblical partnership should be.

#### I. God Made Marriage

##### A. God Created The Male and The Female in His Image. Genesis 1:26-28

- \* God uniquely created them like no other creation, they were after His likeness.
- \* Both male and female were after His likeness. His image, and His character.

1. Men and women are much more alike because they are created in the image of God than they are different.

a. Marriage is an expression of God's creativity in man.

b. Think about it; man and woman are extremely unique. There is nothing else like it anywhere.

c. Read Gen. 2:21-23.

While man was sleeping, God took one of man's ribs and made it into a woman. He did not take from the brain so that he could rule over her, or his feet so he could walk over her, but from his rib because that was nearest to his heart.

She must have been some beautiful woman because Adam experienced love at first sight.

2. Remember marriage was not invented by man but was created and instituted by God.

a. Man did not have a choice in the creation.

b. God married them and made the Garden of Eden their home, a real paradise for newlyweds.

c. Allow me to digress just a second and let's look at Chapter 3.

When they sinned against God, He asked them some very pointed and convicting questions.

1.) Where art thou?

2.) Who told you that you were naked?

3.) What is this that thou hast done?

In spite of the fact that they did some blame shifting and then God expressed the outcome and His plan for redemption.

B. God's plan for marriage is one man for one woman. Genesis 2:24-25

\* Marriage is not some kind of experimental program whereby you try different partners until you decide which one you like the best.

\* God's plan is for one man to love one woman. The only exception is through the death of one of the partners and then you are free to remarry.

\* In order to experience God's plan, He gives some very clear instructions.

1. We are to leave our father and mother. Now what does this mean? Leave the home. There are no homes big enough for two families.

2. We are to cleave unto each other.

3. We are to become one flesh.

o This is brought about through the act of intercourse which is meant only for those who have entered into marriage.

o This kind of relationship creates a new family.

II. God Made Marriage to Last for Life  
Matthew 19:4-6

A. God made the marital union of one man and one woman to last for their whole life.

1. Jesus affirms to Old Testament teaching of God's ideal for marriage.

\* The Pharisees were trying to challenge Jesus on the O.T. teaching of marriage and divorce.

2. He explains that divorce was granted by Moses as a concession because of the hardness of the hearts of men.

\* Our society today is still challenging marriage and its boundaries and sad to say many in the church are granting concessions for the sake of not losing people.

\* God's opinion and teaching has not changed concerning divorce.

B. God's grace is available to whoever seeks it to stay married or to live as a single person.

1. Here is God's intent: If you will marry by the will of God, then you can remain married by the grace of God.

\* Adam and Eve had some really great difficulties in their marriage but they stayed together.

\* God's grace is available to single people as well. Vs. 12

2. God does not want us to be miserable in our marriages but He does want us to be reasonable to let Him work in our lives and solve our problems.

\* Too often our marriages do not work because we do not want them to work.

\* Happiness is not the most important thing in our life.

\* God's grace will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

\* Not only did God create marriage, He has the power to sustain marriage.

### III. God Made Marriage to be a Biblical Partnership Ephesians 5:21-33

In this partnership, there must be some other terms used that will help cement this whole relationship.

The words are commitment and not convenience.

Covenant and not temporary circumstances.

A. Marriage partnership calls for a covenant of submission to yield your lives to each other and to God.

1. Human love alone is not sufficient, but must also have God's love to make this marriage partnership possible.

\* This is not a call of subservanthood.

2. This is a call to mutual submission which brings about a partnership with neither one ruling over the other.

\* It is a call to partnership where the husband is the leader who provides for his family and protects his family.

\* And where the wife will within this partnership submit to his leadership.

B. A woman's response to this Biblical partnership and her yieldedness to God will result in her submitting to her husband's leadership.

(Now we are getting 'em)

C. A man's response to this Biblical partnership and his yieldedness to God will result in his willingness to sacrifice his life for his wife and family, as Christ did for the church.

(Now who is getting who?)

\* A surrendered husband to God makes it easy for a woman to submit to him.

\* A happy wife makes a happy life.

\* Now let's get to where the rubber meets the road.

D. This marriage partnership is not a give and take relationship but a total willingness to give and continue to give to each other just like God keeps giving to us.

\* Marriage is a give and give and give and give, sing it with me, relationship.

\* Our giving is to be done in the spirit of Christ and all to the glory of God.

\* Let's look at some examples:

How many have problems with it being too hot or too cold in the car?

...the way you put the toilet paper on the dispenser.

...the way you squeeze the toothpaste tube.

...they way you treat your clothes. A clothes rack is a place you should hang your clothes.

\* What are some ways you have trouble in giving?

\* A mature partner will love their partner better than they love themselves.

\* A successful, godly marriage is not based upon the issue as long as both shall live but as long as both shall give.

E. Obedient children should be the results of this kind of partnership.

1. Children are one of the greatest gifts of God.
2. Their obedience to you as parents will be radically influenced by how they see you obeying God.
3. There are certain things our children should never hear:
  - a. I don't love you anymore.
  - b. I married the wrong person.

We all married the wrong person. None of us were the right one apart from God's grace and mercy.

But through God's grace and mercy there is always hope of becoming the right person.

- c. I am leaving.
- d. I love someone else.

#### IV. How Should We Respond To God's Plan for Marriage?

To make sure we have a Biblical partnership, we need to ask ourselves some questions! Let's personalize these questions.

##### A. Are we committed to living God's principles? Eph. 5:21

- \* The marriages that are making it today are those who are living God's principles.
- \* This is not just a letter of the law obedience but allegiance to God and His will for your life, also.

##### B. Is God actually at work in our lives?

- \* If God is not actually working (forget the empty profession) in your life, then you are not going to be able to forgive and your relationship can certainly begin to fall apart.

##### C. Are we mutually committed to each other for life?

- \* There must be mutual commitment between each other based upon your absolute surrender to God.
- \* Not based upon the thought well if she will submit then I guess I will too.

##### D. Is our marriage a reflection of heaven here on earth?

- \* Learn to live consistently.

- \* Don't live hypocritically.
- \* Pray together, love together.
- \* Support each other completely.

## CONCLUSION

One of the greatest benefits of a Biblical partnership is the joy of passing down our spiritual heritage to our children and then to our grandchildren.

The Bible teaches us that our marriage should be for the spiritual benefit of our children and grandchildren. That is why we must live consistently before our children. If we had a fuss at home on Sunday morning and we arrived at church with all smiles and act like hypocrites then our children will probably not think much about the contents of our faith.

We must live at home what we confess at church. Pray at home. Live the Christlike life before our children. Read the Scriptures together.

God loved us when we were unlovable. We may have to do the same.

Marriage is empowered by the grace of God and sustained by the love of God.

Marriage is probably one of the greatest opportunities to experience the goodness and grace of God in your own personal life and to experience love for each other.

Marriage is a vivid illustration of God's love for us.

Let us decide right now to determine to live for the glory of God.

How many, right now will commit to share a committed Biblical partnership in your home?