

SUCCESSFUL FAMILIES # 2

Solving Problems

Int.

1. Aim: To show some of the problems of our families and how we can solve these problems and have a successful happy family. In this lesson we will focus on problems of the marriage - husband and wife.
2. "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" Mt. 19:5
 - a. God instituted marriage - Adam and Eve
 - b. Marriage Ceremony - Closing - I wish for you that your lives may be beautiful, useful and happy, and that when these beautiful bonds shall be broken by death you may be together in heaven.
 - c. We all start with the idea of having a wonderful and happy marriage.
 - c. Live Happily every after ... , , , ,
 - d. But problems come - what now ?
3. To be successful in marriage you must start over every day.
 - a. Love must be shown -- not just during the honeymoon.
 - b. Kindness - respect -- devotion --- every day!!!
4. There are problems that occur in any marriage. For every temptation there is a way of escape. Problems can be solved. Learn what God says about the problem and how to solve it.
5. In this lesson we will look at some of the problems that husbands and wives have in marriage and some solutions from the Bible.

Discussion

I. HOW TO DEAL WITH A HARD-HEADED COMPANION

- A. Hard-headed === stubborn, selfish, demanding their own way.
- B. To those who are hard-headed:
1. You are your worst enemy
 2. There is no possible way for you to be happy - because selfish people never can be happy.
 3. Selfish - hard-hearted people have difficulty in forgiving.
 4. You will not change your mind. --
 5. God says: "Love — seeketh not her own" 1 Cor. 13:4-5
 "Look not every man on his own things" Phil. 2:4
- C. An example - Abigail had a stubborn husband named Nabal 1 Sam. 25
1. He was always taking but never willing to give.
 2. David had protected Nabal's flock.
 3. Later David needed a favor of Nabal but he was too stubborn to give the aid. He was rude to David's servants and sent them home empty.
 4. David was on his way to kill Nabal and all of his house.
 5. Abigail heard about what her husband had done. She went to make peace with David.
 - a. She presents food and presents to David and his men.
 - b. She pleads for mercy. Reasons with David. David listens to her.
 6. When Nabal awoke Abigail told him what had happened. "...his heart died within him, and he became as a stone." 10 days later the Lord smote Nabal, that he died.
 7. She later became a wife of David.

8. Abigail made the best of a very bad situation.
9. Sometimes a hard-headed companion can be softened with love and kindness. But in other cases there will not be any changes.

II. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR COMPANION RESENTS YOUR DEVOTION TO GOD?

A. Religion causes problems

1. It is strange but true, but an unbelieving companion often is resentful of the companion who is a Christian and worships God.
2. It can create tension and troubles

B. Example in the Bible:

1. One day Michal, a wife of David, looked out and saw David as he danced before the Ark of God.
2. She despised him. When he returned home that afternoon she verbally chastised him.
3. David responded to her, but he made no compromise with God.
4. He even said, "and I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in my own sight." 2 Sam.6:22

C. What must the believer do?

1. Never make any compromises.
2. You must put God first!!! If you begin to compromise there is no stopping place.

3. I have heard of women who had to walk to church because their husband would not allow them to use the car. I heard of one woman who had to hide her Sunday clothes in the barn on Saturday because her husband would take her clothes and hide them, just to try to keep her from attending worship services.
4. I Heard of one man who took a part off the motor so the car would not start. The wife started walking to church with the baby. He felt so guilty he picked her up and took her on to church. The next Sunday he went to church with her!
5. The trials and tribulations may be long but there is a silver lining.
6. 1 Pet. 3:1-2 "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; 2. While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."

III. WHAT DO YOU DO WITH AN UNFAITHFUL COMPANION?

- A. Do some self examination
 1. Have you been the kind of husband/wife that you ought to be?
 2. Have you rendered unto your husband/wife his/her "due".
 3. Conduct yourself properly - no flirtation with others
- B. The solution to the problem of unfaithfulness is true, deep, genuine, unselfish, devotion in love to one's companion.
- C. If there is unfaithfulness then you must decide
 1. You can forgive and make the marriage better.
 2. If your partner is unfaithful and it has destroyed your love for one another then you do have the right of divorce.

3. Matt. 19:9 "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except[it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

D. If there is not unfaithfulness but serious problems there is no scriptural reason for divorce but you can be separated. 1 Cor. 7:10ff

1. Physical abuse - makes it dangerous to be around - drinking, drugs
2. Best to leave - protect self and especially any children involved
3. Separation does not give the person a right for remarriage
4. Sometimes a person has to make a sacrifice in order to go to heaven - not necessary to be married to be a Christian and live faithfully and go to heaven

IV. WHAT ABOUT PROBLEMS OVER MONEY ?

A. Greed or covetousness will lead to many problems in a marriage

1. "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." 1 Tim.6:10asv
2. "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house." Pr.15:27
3. "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; he that loveth abundance with increase." Ecl. 5:10
4. "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Lk.12:15

B. Agree on the use of your money:

1. Decide how much you are going to give to God - put Him First.
2. Learn to live within your income

3. Keep the money equally available to both partners. One should not feel that he or she is having to ask the other for an allowance. Be sure you have the money before you go and buy something.

C. Do not try to keep up with others:

1. You may never have as much as others
2. May not have as much as your parents who have been married for 20 to 30 years.
3. But that is all right !!
4. Be content and happy with what you have
5. Fussing and arguing over money and how it is spent can destroy your feelings for one another. It can become a wedge that separates you.

Conclusion

1. Happiness is homemade!
2. People are searching for solutions to family problems!!
 - a. We do not need to go beyond the Bible.
 - b. Men and women need to start living like Christ in the home.
 - c. We need to develop the mind of Christ.
 - d. Successful family living is an inside job.
3. If there are problems seek a biblical solution. The divorce court is not the answer.
4. A re-examination of the marriage vows is good therapy for a married couple. Look at the vows and see if you have been keeping them. If you do keep them the problems will be resolved.
5. Work at your marriage. Keep the laws that God has given you, in marriage. God will bless you abundantly.

6. You can have a successful marriage which is the central part of having a successful family.

7. A recipe for a happy home.

First, get out the cooking utensils. You will need one husband and one wife and children to suit yourself. Next, cream one cup of love until it is fluffy and mellow. Add one-half cup of tears and hardships and stir gently. Whip in a cup of joy; when smooth, add one teaspoon each of thoughtfulness, heartfelt sympathy and tenderness. Add one cup of ambition with two cups of Christianity. Bake in a moderate oven, top with kindness, and serve repeatedly.

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