

Marriage is For Men and Women Who Love God and One Another

Pt. 1 Why Study Marriage

Gen. 2:18, 21-25

Int.

1. Aim: To show why we need to study about marriage.
2. "What Is the Need for This Study?" Is it important, or isn't it?
 - a. I believe it was an Englishman who said that if the Pope had ever been married he would have never come up with the doctrine of papal infallibility.
 - b. Because just being married awhile would help one to see that he is not infallible.
 - c. Things arise which show the need for great wisdom.
3. Why should we study marriage ?

Discussion

I. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

- A. It is important because God has definite laws and instructions about marriage
 1. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
 2. To obey the laws or instructions is to be obedient to God. And obedience to God results in happiness.
 3. Matt. 19:8 "From the beginning it was not so" - Jesus was talking about marriage and divorce. He said that God gave rules about marriage and God's desire is that we not have divorce.

- B. It is important because of the tremendous consequences of marriage, both good and evil
1. It will have tremendous consequences on the bride and groom.
 2. In your marriage you will gain a little taste of heaven or a little taste of hell.
 3. There will be tremendous consequences on the children who come as a result of this marriage.
 4. The atmosphere in which they grow up makes them what they are
- C. It is important to the family of both the bride and the groom.
1. If the marriage is good it affects the lives of their parents.
 2. But if the marriage is bad then it brings heartache and sorrow and oftentimes shame upon the whole family.
- D. Marriage is important because of its affects on the community and the nation
1. It was because the marriage relationship was perverted into homosexuality that God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 2. The Bible declares Prov. 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people."
 3. The marriage relationship is at the very heart of the nation.
 4. Nations rise and fall as a result of the moral fibre of its people, and its moral fibre cannot rise above its attitude and its practices in marriage
 5. Illustration: The Keeper of the Springs
 6. The home, especially the Christian home, is the spring from which comes our nations moral and ethical strength
- E. Marriage should be studied because it is important.

II. BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE TO DESTROY MARRIAGE AND THE HOME.

A. Deliberate efforts

1. The Marxists and Communists are trying to break down the family and home.
 - a. In the Communist Manifesto, in the chapter on the Family, it says: "The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child..."
 - b. They use the term "claptrap" in describing the family relationship
 - c. They also predicted: "The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement (prostitution) vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital."
2. They also teach that the training of children belongs, not to the parents but to the STATE.
3. The breakup of the family is essential to the communist theory.

B. In-deliberate efforts - the foundations of the family are being destroyed

1. People do not believe that they must obey God
2. The ease with which divorce is obtained - no-fault divorce
3. Lowering of the standards of sexual morality.
 - a. Most people dress in a very immodest way.
 - b. Men and women wear "next to nothing" in public and are not ashamed that their bodies are exposed to everyone.
 - c. Pre-marital sexual relations are common in the lives of most young people
4. The heroes of the nation are many times those whose morals are hardly above those of the animals of the barnyard.

5. Allowing others to raise the children -
 - a. It is the responsibility of parents to raise their own children.
 - b. Eph. 6:1-4 V. 4 "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
 6. More women are leaving the home for employment in business
- C. What communists are deliberately doing we are doing unconsciously and in-deliberately.

III. BECAUSE OF THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE

- A. To provide needed human companionship - Gen. 2:20-25
 1. When God created man, He saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so He made a helper who was suited for him.
 2. He made woman for the companion of man.
 3. Woman is the completing part of man. He is not truly complete without her.
 4. She supplies that which is absent in man. She is that person who allows man to express himself, to know himself, and to develop himself.
 5. In the same way, without man, woman cannot truly know, express or develop herself.
- B. To propagate the race of man - Gen. 1:28 "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply;"
- C. Develop an atmosphere of love in which children can be raised.
- D. The prevention of immorality - 1 Cor. 7:2 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

- E. Provides men and women with such experiences as will help each of them to develop spiritually.
- F. It gives man a model of his relationship with Christ. - Eph. 5:25
 - 1. Husbands would love their wives tenderly and unselfishly
 - 2. Wives would lovingly submit themselves to the leadership and care of their husbands.

IV. BECAUSE MARRIAGE INVOLVES SUCH PROFOUND COMMITMENT

- A. It is a lifelong contract
- B. To live with another person in prosperity and in poverty.

V. BECAUSE MARRIAGE IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

- A. It is God's business
 - 1. He has regulated it - He has laws which govern our marriage
 - 2. God will call us some day to see how we have obeyed his teachings.
- B. It is the business of the children who are born as a result of this marriage.
 - 1. The parents which a child has are very important to him.
 - 2. For a young person to say: "This marriage is our business and not that of anyone else" shows that they do not really understand the importance of marriage.
- C. It is the business of the families of the bride and groom
- D. It is the business of the community and the nation.
 - 1. This is why the courtship should be public and the announcement of the intention of marriage should be made public.
 - 2. The marriage ceremony should be public.

VI. Because There are so many factors which can cause failure - the next lesson will be about Why marriage fails so often.

VII. Because there are such distorted views as to how to choose a companion

- A. The model for most is "Hollywood"
 - 1. Our young people confuse mere physical attraction with being truly in love.
 - 2. If one "loves" another only for the purpose of gaining purely selfish goals, this is not the love which should motivate one to be married.
- B. Some people marry for social advantage. Others marry for financial advantage.
- C. The Bible tells us how to choose a good companion and how to live together happily as husbands and wives. That is why we need to study marriage.

VIII. Because our spiritual development depends upon it.

- A. The way we live together as husband and wife has a great deal to do with the way we develop spiritually - 1 Pet. 3:7 "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. One of the greatest hindrances to spiritual development is a marriage that is not working as God directs.
 - 2. Can you picture a man or woman whose companion is constantly criticizing, disgruntled, unhappy, full of self pity, mistrust, jealousy and envy trying to develop spiritually in that kind of atmosphere? It would be very difficult !!
- B. The choice of a life companion may be the choice of your destiny.
- C. Your marriage may determine where you will spend eternity - whether with God in heaven, or in Hell with the Devil and his angels.

CONCLUSION

1. This subject of marriage is important to everyone:
 - a. Those looking forward to being married
 - b. Those married for a short while.
 - c. Those who have been married for a long time. Sometimes people are not happy in their marriage and they should be. God shows us how to be happy, and how to make our marriage the most wonderful experience upon earth.
 - d. All couples desire to be happy. A young couple were separated. They got together and agreed to let the marriage go up or down if the tree they planted lived or died. That night they met each other at midnight watering the tree.
2. God intends for marriage to bring the marriage partners closer together and help draw them closer to God.
3. A happy marriage can be had only if both partners will listen to what the Bible teaches on this matter.
 - a. A happy marriage will bring us closer to God.
 - b. An unhappy marriage will drive us away from God.
4. Let us strive to make our marriage what it should be !

Source:

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The Keeper of the Springs

"Once upon a time, a certain town grew up at the foot of a mountain range. It was sheltered in the lee of the protecting heights, so that the wind that shuddered at the doors and flung handfuls of sleet against the windowpanes was a wind whose fury was spent.

High up in the hills, a strange and quiet forest dweller took it upon himself to be the Keeper of the Springs. He patrolled the hills and where-ever he found a spring, he cleaned its brown pool of silt and fallen leaves, of mud and mold, and took away from the spring all foreign matter, so that the water which bubbled up through the sand ran down clean and cold and pure. It leaped and sparkled over the rocks, and dropped joyously in crystal cascades until, swollen by other streams, it became a river of life to the busy town. Millwheels were whirled by its rush. Gardens were refreshed by its waters. Fountains threw it like diamonds into the air. Swans sailed on its limpid surface, and children laughed as they played on its banks in the sunshine.

But the City Council was a group of hard-headed, hard-boiled business men. They scanned the civic budget and found in it the salary of a Keeper of the Springs. Said the Keeper of the Purse, "Why should we pay this romantic ranger? We never see him; he is not necessary to our town work life. If we build a reservoir just above the town, we can dispense with his services and save his salary." Therefore, the City Council voted to dispense with the unnecessary cost of a Keeper of the Springs, and to build a cement reservoir.

So the Keeper of the Springs no longer visited the brown pools but watched from the heights while they built the reservoir. When it was finished, it too was filled with water, to be sure, but the water was not the same. It did not seem to be as clean, and a green scum soon beclouded its stagnant surface. There were troubles with the delicate machinery of the mills, for it was clogged with slime, and the swans found another home above the town. At last an epidemic raged, and the clammy, yellow fingers of sickness reached into every street and lane.

The City Council met again. Sorrowfully, it faced the city's plight, and frankly acknowledged the mistake of the dismissal of the Keeper of the Springs. They sought him out of his hermit hut high in the hills, and begged him to return to his former joyous labor. Gladly he agreed, and began once more to make his rounds. It was not long until pure water came liting down under tunnels of fern and mosses and to sparkle in the cleansed reservoir. Millwheels turned again as of old. Stenches disappeared. Sickness waned, and convalescent children playing in the sun laughed again because the swans had come back." [Peter Marshall, Mr. Jones, Meet the Master, pp. 147-148.]

Please do not think me too fanciful, too imaginative, or too extreme in my language when I say that I think of the home, particularly the Christian home, as the Keeper of the Springs from which comes our nation's moral and ethical strength. The phrase, while poetic, is true and descriptive. As we think of it, we feel its warmth, its influence, and we are conscious of the memories which surge in our hearts, memories which linger with us in youth and maturity, memories about what our homes were and were meant to be.

[Illustration Taken from a sermon by William Woodson "Christian Marriage: The Keeper of the Springs]