

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

Pt. 4 Marriage is for the Mature

Int.

1. Aim: To show why marriage is not for the immature but for those who are mature.
2. Gen. 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
 - a. Adam and Eve were created full grown
 - b. They were not babies or young children - they were grown
3. We have had three lessons on marriage: Why we need to study it, Why marriage fails so often and The meaning of "I Do".
4. This lesson is about the fact that marriage is not for children, the immature,
5. Marriage is for men and women who are mature.

Discussion

Part I - Introduction

I. Some are mature PHYSICALLY

- A. Most reach physical maturity long before they reach maturity in other areas.
 1. Therefore they are ready for and desire marriage
 2. But maturity involves more than the body.
- B. This is one of problems of early marriages or marriage at any early age.

II. Five AGES IN WHICH WE MUST MATURE

A. Man goes through or has five areas of development to reach maturity - Luke 2:52

1. Chronological 50
2. Physical 40
3. Intellectual 60
4. Emotional 15
5. Spiritual 10

B. The two we are most interested in are:

1. Emotional and Spiritual maturity
2. They are the hardest to develop
3. These two are the most important to happy marriages

III. Maturity is VERY IMPORTANT IN MARRIAGE

A. Sometimes we all will display immaturity

B. We should be able to recognize immaturity

1. It's easy to see it in others - Luke 18:9-14 - the Pharisee could see the faults of others
2. But he could not see his own. It's hard for us to see our own immaturity

C. But we must be able to recognize immaturity and get rid of it to have a happy marriage

D. Here are some ways in which emotional and spiritual immaturity shows itself:

Part II. MARKS OF IMMATURITY

I. SELFISHNESS

- A. A child is selfish - concerned only about himself
 - 1. More concern for a broken toy than his neighbor's house which is burning
 - 2. More concerned about his stubbed toes than cancer in his neighbor's stomach
- B. Many husbands and wives are like this
 - 1. Husband has worked hard all day at factory, office, or out in the field
 - 2. Wife has cared for children, cooked, cleaned house and is worn out
 - 3. When the husband comes home and is selfish he is not interested in her problems or anything that she has done; all he wants is attention to his desires.
 - 4. When both are selfish then great trouble results.
- C. This is a true mark of immaturity

II. INGRATITUDE is another mark of Immaturity

- A. An immature person is not thankful for his blessings
 - 1. He feels the world owes it to him
 - 2. Example: A mother, sick and tired will sit up all night with her sick baby. But the baby is not grateful. He won't even give it a thought.
- B. This attitude and way of life can cause unhappiness in your marriage
- C. Ingratitude is a mark of immaturity - Eph. 5:20
- D. Learn to say "thank you" Often!

III. DEMAND FOR OWN WAY - is a mark of immaturity that we all are acquainted with

- A. A child
 - 1. If he doesn't get his way he throws a tantrum
 - 2. He falls on the floor and kicks and screams and hollers
- B. Husbands and wives
 - 1. They holler and fuss and throw a tantrum when they don't get their way
 - 2. Sometimes they even fight each other
 - 3. Many of them give each other a tongue lashing
 - 4. Sull - and won't speak
- C. Mature people don't throw a tantrum when they don't get their way

IV. LITTLE OR NO SENSE OR RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATIONS is a mark of immaturity

- A. A Child
 - 1. Mother may be shopping and have many packages in her arms
 - 2. Yet when the child gets tired he expects to be carried by his mother
- B. Husbands and wives have a responsibility to each other and they must do their part
- C. One woman said of her husband, "When he is well he expects to be treated as if he is a king; when he is sick, expects to be treated as if he is a baby.

V. FAILING TO FINISH WHAT IS STARTED is a mark of immaturity

- A. A child may start something and quit before he finishes. He gets tired or bored.
- B. Husbands sometimes move from one job to another never finishing one job.

VI. INABILITY TO MEET CONFLICTS WITH GOOD EMOTIONAL REACTION is a mark of immaturity.

- A. A child when it meets conflicts doesn't act very well
1. He may cry He may scream and holler and loose his temper -
 2. He is trying to get something done
- B. Husbands and wives sometimes do this when they have conflicts in life
1. They will scream - fuss and fume
 2. And "go home to mama"
 3. Husbands will sometimes go and get drunk
 4. Sometimes they will both turn to another man or woman in spite
 5. This is their way of trying to resolves the conflicts in their life.
- C. What should we do when we have conflicts in marriage?
1. 1 Cor. 14:20 "in understanding be men" KJV "In mind be men" ASV men= full age
 2. Grow up emotionally and much misery and unhappiness could be avoided
 3. Learn to react to life's problems with good emotions
 - a. Don't get angry, jealous or mad
 - b. Be kind, gentle, of good disposition
 - c. Be willing to admit you are wrong
 - d. Do what Paul said "Be kind one to another. In honor prefer one another."
Romans 12:10

VII. PEOPLE WHO ARE IMMATURE FEEL IT IS MORE BLESSED TO RECEIVE THAN GIVE

- A. But Paul said "It is more blessed to give than receive" Acts 20:35
- B. Immature people are always wanting what they want and they want it now and if they don't get it they are unhappy
- C. Truly the only way to be happy is to give happiness. Happiness is a by-product of giving happiness
- D. Forget your desire and wishes and try to make your partner happy. Study the Beatitudes

VIII. THE IMMATURE HAVE POOR STANDARDS OF JUDGEMENT

- A. Children show this immature attitude
 - 1. A child is unhappy if another child has a bigger piece of cake
 - 2. A young teenager is unhappy if his pal has a newer and prettier car than he has
- B. This attitude is shown in marriage:
 - 1. Wife - she becomes dissatisfied with her husband because he is not rich, and is not handsome like some man she saw and read about in a magazine
 - 2. Husband - he becomes dissatisfied because wife is not as glamorous (cheap) as the latest movie star
- C. Correct this attitude
 - 1. Wife - appreciate your hard-working faithful Christian husband
 - 2. Husband - appreciate your Godly hard-working loyal Christian wife
 - 3. 1 Pet. 3:3-4

- D. Don't let yourself be unhappy
 - 1. Don't be grouchy, sour and unhappy just because everything is not peaches and cream
 - 2. Learn to make today right - The Lord is our Shepherd.
 - 3. Make up your mind you are going to be happy. Be happy right now.
 - 4. It will help your marriage

IX. ANOTHER MARK OF IMMATURITY IS TO HAVE A POOR WAY OF TRYING TO GET OR SHOW LOVE

- A. Example: Set up a situation and say he will do this if he loves me
 - 1. If he loves me he'll take me to see my mother this weekend when he gets off
 - 2. When he doesn't volunteer to do it he is in the DOGHOUSE
 - 3. The same is true for the husband.
- B. Some married people try to get their partner to love them by throwing a tantrum. This is immaturity in action.
- C. How do you get love?
 - 1. Love - 1 John 4:19 "We love him because he first loved us"
 - 2. Don't demand love, show it.
- D. Do as many loving things for each other as you possibly can
 - 1. Try to make each other happy
 - 2. You made each other happy in your courting days. Remember what you did then and do it now. Just because you're married doesn't mean you stop courting.
- E. These are a few marks or characteristics of immature people. We should try to get rid of them so our marriage will be happier 1 Cor. 13:11 - "as a child"

Part 3 MARKS OF MATURITY

Introduction

1. What is it to be mature?
2. Maturity - to be able to meet the various situations which one meets in life with good emotional, mental, and spiritual reaction or response.
3. Here are several marks of maturity which we need to have a happy marriage

I. A MINIMUM OF INTELLIGENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- A. Both partners must be mentally able to be mature enough to be a good marriage partner
- B. Both partners must have enough knowledge to carry out their obligations
 1. Husband - enough know how to make a living - 1 Tim. 5:8
 2. Wife - must know how to care for the house and children
- C. A mark of maturity is to have knowledge or the ability to learn the things required

II. INDEPENDENCE is a necessary mark of maturity

- A. When we marry a man is to leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife -
Matt. 19:5
 1. Some still depend on their parents for everything
 2. They can't make their own decisions
 3. A boy is not ready for marriage if he cannot support his wife
 4. Independence means you [the husband] are ready for leadership to be the head of the family.

- B. This does not mean we never depend upon anyone else for anything
 - 1. The wisest of men at times ask for advice.
 - 2. A mature person will ask for advice - then weigh it carefully and make his own decision.

III. A CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SEX IS a mark of maturity

- A. Paul gives instructions in 1 Cor. 7 which mature Christians will follow
 - 1. Love is the fundamental desire in life
 - 2. Some people say sex is the strongest desire, or drive, in life
 - 3. But it is not. Love is the strongest drive and sex is simply the "added language" of love
 - 4. Mature Christians know this and live by it.

- B. There are many people with the attitude toward sex that two people can do whatever they want whether married or not, and it's nobody's business
 - 1. Works of the flesh - Gal. 5:19
 - 2. "...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal.5:21
 - 3. 1 Cor. 6:9-10 Rev. 21:8 "...shall have their part in the lake which burneth..."

- C. A mature Christian attitude toward sex is very important to a happy marriage
 - 1. Sex can be a source of strength to hold people together
 - 2. Or it will be a sword to divide if you do not have the right attitude

- D. Marriage is not for babies, the immature. They will break-up before they grow-up.

IV. WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO MAKE EACH OTHER HAPPY is a very important mark of maturity

- A. A child or baby
 - 1. They are concerned only about self - they will cry in the middle of the night in order to be fed or get a dry diaper.
 - 2. They don't care if others are unhappy with having to get up at 2 am to feed them
- B. Husbands and wives are not to be like this:
 - 1. No husband or wife has the right to make the other unhappy
 - 2. Those who are mature will be trying to make each other happy every minute of every day

V. TO BE FILLED WITH CHRISTIAN LOVE is the basic mark of maturity

- A. Why is love so great?
 - 1. It is so basic - out of love grows the right actions
 - 2. Without it other great things are worthless - 1 Cor. 13;1 orator - give body to be burned
 - 3. With it the smallest things become great
 - a. Money and great gifts without love don't mean anything
 - b. The smallest gift with love means much more
 - c. A man may not be able to afford a diamond ring, but a band of paper will mean much to his wife because she knows it is given with love
 - d. A little boy may give "stink" weeds as a bouquet to his mother - but they smell sweet because he did it with love

4. Because it has such transforming power
 - a. It can make your marriage a little bit of heaven
 - b. Love is the golden key to happiness
- B. How will we act when we have our hearts filled with Christian love ?
1. Love suffereth long
 - a. Suffers a long time
 - b. What if a tape recorder had been placed in your home for the last week?
 - c. Would it show longsuffering for your marriage partner ?
 2. Love is kind
 - a. We are courteous and do not wish to hurt the feelings of our companion
 - b. This is the love in every-day life
 3. Love envieth not
 4. Love is not puffed up
 - a. No inward arrogance, or pride
 - b. Keeps us from feeling we are so much better than our companion
 5. Love does not behave itself unseemly
 - a. It keeps us from having harsh language - quarreling
 - b. Preacher tone - a different voice when he preaches
 - c. Family voice and a company voice
 6. Love seeks not its own - guards us against being selfish
 7. Love is not provoked
 - a. Love is a barrier against sudden anger
 - b. Try to be more patient with each other than you have been in the past

- c. Treat them as you would if you knew today would be your last day together
 - d. "Precious memories"
 - e. Learn to give flowers to the living
8. Love takes not account of evil
- a. We don't remember the misdeeds of our partner
 - b. We erase them and never remember them again
9. Love rejoices not in unrighteousness
10. Love rejoices in the truth
11. Love bears all things
- a. Love is like the sides of a ship protecting the cargo from the sea water
 - b. Love guards our heart from resentment and hate for one another
12. Love believes all things - hopes all things
- a. Makes us believe the best about each other
 - b. Where there is love there is trust and faith in one another - jealousy is not an action of love
13. Love endures all things - hang on when everything seems hopeless
14. Love never fails
- C. How can I grow in love like this ?
- 1. Visualize in your mind the kind of person God would have you to be
 - 2. Recognize this involves a wanting to do it before it can be accomplished
 - 3. Then begin to practice what you know you should practice

D. I would be a hypocrite

1. No, a hypocrite has no intention of being better; he is playing a part.
2. But if you intend to try to love you can.
3. The more acts of love you perform for your wife the more you will love her.
4. The more words of love you say to her the more you will love her.

E. Husbands and wives love each other.

1. Love and be happy
2. Fail to love and destroy your marriage and happiness

F. Don't be afraid to love each other, and don't be afraid for others to know it. It's a mark of maturity.

VI. HAVING A HIGH GOAL FOR HUMAN LIFE is a mark of maturity

A. The purpose of marriage - to help one another to walk closer to God

1. Marriage is not where the two stand back to back - this suggest selfishness
2. Marriage is not where they stand face to face - this suggest worshiping each other
3. But marriage is to be pictured with husband and wife standing side by side facing toward heaven - resolved to help one another to be happy in this life and to walk closer to God.

B. Mature people in marriage will help one another to reach this goal in marriage.

CONCLUSION

1. Marriage could be compared to the cover on a book
 - a. It does not always tell what is inside
 - (1) An artist can paint a pretty cover for the book
 - (2) But what is inside tells the worth of the book; parts of it may be good part
may be bad
 - (3) But a good book has an aim and all the chapters work together toward this
goal
 - b. The same is true in marriage
 - (1) A good marriage has a goal
 - (2) Both of the partners are trying to help each other get to heaven
 - (3) Everything that is done is done with this goal in mind
2. A man and woman living together as husband and wife should help each other walk the path which leads to eternal life.
3. Marriage is for men and women who love God and one another.

Source:

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Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org