

A Happy Home

The Christian Home - Pt. 1

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss various things that are essential in building and maintaining a happy Christian home.
2. "...I treat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord c so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Ruth 1:16-17
 - a. Sounds much like a wife to her husband
 - b. But it is a daughter-in-law to her mother-in-law.
 - c. The home life is under discussion
3. God wants us to have happy homes - so he gave us rules and regulations
4. These rules involve Marriage and the family
5. How did it all come about?
 - a. God made us male and female
 - i. Gen. 1 & 2
 - ii. He made us in His image - Gen. 1:27
 - iii. We have a body, soul and spirit - Gen. 2:7 Ecl. 12:7
 - b. God made Woman as a help-meet = Helper, aid
 - i. Adam was first then God made woman for man - Gen. 2:16 I Tim. 2:13
 - ii. Meet = an adjective which means suitable.
 - iii. Woman is to complement man - she is not to be his slave

- iv. She is a weaker vessel - I Pet. 3:7 - which does not mean inferior, but smaller physically, with finer features and more delicate.
 - v. Woman the final creation was made to fill a specific need.
 - c. They became "one flesh" - Gen. 2:24 - Matt. 19:6
 - i. They are incomplete within themselves - the other half
 - ii. Together they form a functioning unit.
 - iii. Into this marriage may come children as God intended - Gen. 1:28
6. This marriage forms the Christian Home.
- a. "The highest happiness on earth is in marriage. Every man who is happily married is a successful man even if he has failed in everything else. And every man whose marriage is a failure is not a successful man even if he has succeeded in everything else." - William Lyon Phelps
 - b. Definitions :
 - i. Family - two people who are married and are living together. Children may or may not come to bless this home.
 - ii. Home - a family living together happily
 - iii. Christian Home - a family whose relationships are pleasing to God.
7. Many things can destroy our marriage and home: Divorce Court
- a. Many divorces - "When Love Dies" book by Judy Bodmer
 - b. Children abused and neglected
 - c. Unhappy miserable home life for some
8. We will discuss some things that will help make a happy home:
- "What is Marriage?" - Marriage is a Triangle - Greatest Human contract - Three "C's" of marriage - Ten rules for a happy marriage - Ten Be-attitudes for better homes

Discussion

I. DEFINITION of MARRIAGE

- A. Thoughts about the definition of marriage
 - 1. Marriage is a "contract" but there are many "contracts"
 - 2. Marriage is a "covenant" but there are many "covenants"
 - 3. Marriage is a "commitment", but there are many commitments
 - 4. Marriage is a "union", but there are many "unions"

- B. The marriage contract, covenant, commitment and union must be **Acceptable to God**
 - 1. It is possible for a marriage union to be a "legal" union and not be acceptable to God.
 - 2. Solomon loved many strange women who became his wives, and they became his legal wives. But they were not marriages which pleased God. I Kings 11:1-3
 - 3. The fact that a union is called a "marriage" does not prove that it is "marriage" acceptable to God. - Matt. 19:9 - one cause for divorce and remarriage

- C. Marriage ought to measure up to God's ideal
 - 1. It is possible for a union in "marriage" to be acceptable to God - that is scriptural - which does not measure up to the high ideals which God intended for human marriage.
 - 2. So many marriages are not what they ought to be. Unhappy, miserable
 - 3. God intended that we be happy in marriage and that our union help each other to live a faithful Christian life

D. What is marriage?

1. "The institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family".
2. "Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance, and comradeship, such as would assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live."

II. MARRIAGE IS A HOLY TRIANGLE

A. It is not 50-50

1. Many times couples talk about marriage being a 50-50 proposition
2. Each will agree to go so far and that is all. He or she has no obligation to go any further
3. This is not the way to view marriage as a Christian

B. God is a partner to all Christian marriages

1. A Christian is one serving God
2. When two Christians get married they are still serving God
3. He is a part of that marriage relationship
4. So marriage becomes a triangle - with God, Husband and Wife
5. God should be at the top or apex
6. Marriage is for those who truly love God and one another.

III. MARRIAGE IS THE GREATEST HUMAN CONTRACT

- A. During a lifetime we will enter many contracts
 - 1. None will ever be greater than the marriage contract
 - 2. A man and woman mutually agree to accept the responsibilities of their union.

- B. Biblical purposes of this contract
 - 1. **Sociological**
 - a. To provide companionship - celibacy is not good
 - b. Gen. 2:18 "...it is not good that the man should be alone; ..."
 - 2. **Industrial**
 - a. To provide assistance
 - b. Gen. 2:18 "...I will make an help meet for him"
 - c. This means the help that will meet his needs.
 - 3. **Biological**
 - a. To provide procreation
 - b. Gen. 1:27-28
 - c. There is no legitimate means of reproducing the human species outside of marriage
 - 4. **Domestic**
 - a. To establish a home
 - b. Young women are taught to be "keepers at home" Tit. 2:5
 - 5. **Moral**
 - a. Marriage is to provide for mating in purity
 - b. I Cor. 7:2 Heb. 13:4

- c. God made us as sexual beings with a powerful urge - drive that is to be satisfied only in marriage.
- d. God recognizes no other way of sexual purity.

IV. THREE "C'S" OF MARRIAGE

- A. All of the days of marriage are important
 - 1. Some marriages last for many years - 50 or 75
 - 2. There are no unimportant days in a marriage.
 - 3. Each day is complete - a little lifetime
 - 4. Each member of the marriage is bound to love the other as he loves himself and he should work to make his partner happy.

- B. Three things that are important:
 - 1. **COURTESY**
 - 2. **COUNSEL**
 - 3. **CONSIDERATION**

- C. A man was dying and the last words he spoke to his wife were: "You've been sweet to me." He used his last breath to make her happy - to say something she would remember and whisper to herself throughout the rest of her lifetime.

- D. A lifetime of happiness awaits a husband and wife who give their thoughts and attention to each other, to their children and to their God.

V. TEN RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE - by Al Behel

1. Don't say "I do" if you don't.
2. Don't expect your spouse to do all the changing.
3. Listen more than you talk.
4. Always tell your spouse "I love you" at least once a day.
5. When differences arise, attack the problem, not the personalities.
6. Take time to pray together each day.
7. Show your love by doing things your partner likes for you to do.
8. Spend time alone with your spouse.
9. Compliment often, criticize seldom, and smile a lot.
10. Be honest about your feelings, but don't wear them around your shoulders.

VI. TEN BE-ATTITUDES FOR BETTER HOMES

1. BE HONEST - did you ever try to tell just one lie? - Eph. 4:25
2. BE LOVING - In word and deed - Eph. 5:25 Tit. 2:4 I Cor. 13:4-7
3. BE PATIENT - Bear and forebear; endure II Pet. 1:5-7
4. BE COURTEOUS - extra thoughtful and kind - Eph. 4:32 Heb. 10:24
5. BE FUN TO LIVE WITH - Create memories of joyful times - Phil. 4:4
6. BE FORGIVING - Drop old grudges - Mt. 6:12-15 Luk. 17:3
7. BE FAITHFUL - Loyal morally and emotionally - I Cor. 7:3-5
8. BE REALISTIC - Remember it is a human relationship - II Cor 8:12
9. BE UNSELFISH - Generous, "others" oriented - Phil, 2:4, Acts 20:35
10. BE CHRISTIANS - Every accountable member of the family needs to become and remain a faithful child of God. There is no way the home can be fully what it ought to be unless all recognize Jesus as Lord.

CONCLUSION

1. Building a happy home takes time.
 2. Illustration of Building a house in few hours - Habitat for Humanity builds a house in a day or two
 3. There are no such things as "instant" homes.
 - a. It takes patience
 - b. It takes time
 - c. There never is a time when we can sit down and say "it is finished"
 - d. Always need to have love and consideration and kindness and thoughtfulness.
 4. With Love for God and One another as the foundation of the home then it can be a
HAPPY HOME.
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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning April 25, 2010
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