

Sunday, April 3, 2011—Grace For A Godly Marriage

God's Building Blocks For Society

- In the first 11 Chapters of Genesis God established four institutions for the orderly maintenance and perpetuation of the human race.
 - Volition/Free Will—Genesis 2:16-17
 - Marriage—Genesis 2:23-25
 - Family—Genesis 4:1—Please notice that in God's mind marriage is supposed to come before family.
 - Human Government/Nationalism—Genesis 9:5-6

Should I Get Married?

- You don't have to be married to be a complete and whole person.
- I Corinthians 7:8, 32-33—there are advantages in life and ministry to remaining single. Believers should not find their identify in another person you should find it in Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 7:39—you are free to make your own choice about who you will marry. The only stipulation is that a believer is not to willing marry an unbeliever. From within the household of faith so to speak you are free to choose your own partner.
- In secular society, many believe in fatalism, destiny, or the notion their life is part of a predetermined plan which includes their one soul mate. Whom they serendipitously meet and fall in love with. This same type of thinking also exists within Christian circles but it revolves around the notion that God has a predetermined life plan uniquely designed for every believer revealed through the reading of circumstantial guiding and inward impressions.
- People get married all the time because they feel it's God's will yet the divorce rate within the church is the same in secular society.
- I would caution you here that just because someone is saved does not automatically make them the best choice. They may be a lawful choice but not the best choice.
- II Corinthians 6:14—this verse obviously fits with the verse in I Corinthians 7:39 in substantiating the notion that believers should not marry unbelievers. In my view being unequally yoked extends not just to marrying a believer but making sure that you are in Scriptural agreement with the person you choose to be your spouse.
 - No Missionary Dating-- If you are single you need to guard your heart on these issues because if you allow yourself to get emotionally attached before you know if the other person is a believer or in agreement with you about important faith issues you will be endanger of making a bad decision.
- Indian Jones Illustration
- We need to value and esteem the same things that God values and esteems in our choosing of a spouse.

- I Samuel 16:7—the heart issues are much more important than the physical ones.
- I Peter 3:1-4—all that glitters is not gold just like in Indian Jones.
- I Timothy 2:9-10
- I Timothy 5:8

What is Marriage?

- Genesis 2:18-25—according to the Bible marriage is between a man and women
- Marriage is supported by a three pronged base similar to a tripod
 - Leaving—to loose, to depart from, to leave behind—man serves as the leader in this regard.
 - Cleaving—to stick to, stick with, follow closely, to be joined together
 - One Flesh—this is the physical part of the marriage relationship, this is what makes marriage marriage.
- I Corinthians 6:16
- At its core marriage is the formation of a new identify its agreeing to play by a new set of rules. Marriage is the difference between playing singles and doubles tennis.
- Marriage is also the reformation of God’s original creation.

The Role of the Husband

- Ephesians 5:31—Paul uses the same three pronged definition of marriage that Moses uses in Genesis 2.
- Ephesians 5:21—the first place being filled with the Spirit is going to manifest it’s self is in your marriage and family.
- Ephesians 5:25—the husband is instructed to love his wife even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.
- Strong’s concordance defines the word Love as follows:
 - Of persons: to welcome to entertain, to be found of, to love dearly
 - Of things: to be well pleased with, to be contented with or at a thing.
- The word is also translated beloved 7 times in the New Testament—Colossians 3:12.
- Paul provides an example of what kind of love he is talking about right in verse 25, the same love that drove Christ to sacrifice his life for the Body of Christ. Paul is not talking about the feelings based emotional love but a sacrificial love that chooses to esteem and cherish despite whatever is going on in your circumstances. Love in this case is not a feeling it an act of your will. This is not the kind of love that one falls out of.

- Ephesians 5:28—“So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.”
 - So—after this manner, likewise
 - Ought—implies that husbands, according to their marriage contract and bonds, are indebted and obligated to love their own wives.
- How ought men to love their wives? As their own bodies.
 - First, we may interpret this as meaning that husbands are to love their wives to the same degree that they love their personal bodies. Their egocentric love is to be duplicated so as to include a wife-centric love.
 - The last sentence in the verse removes the gap between a husband and wife. Paul is no longer thinking of them as two separate persons but as one person with a single identity. This goes right back to the basic definition of marriage.
- Ephesians 5:29—Paul is dealing with the normal attitude of human beings toward themselves. Normally a human being seeks to preserve himself and provide for his physical and emotional needs. It is clear from the context that the phrase “his own flesh” must be understood as including ones wife seeing how the two are made one flesh in marriage.
 - Nourisheth—to make fat by feeding, hence to feed, to nurse, to bring up to maturity.
 - Cherisheth—to warms, to keep warm, to cherish with tender love or foster with tender care.
- Colossians 3:19—this one sentence verse does an excellent job summarizing the role and responsibilities of a husband.
 - Bitter—to produce a bitter taste in ones stomach, exasperate
 - render angry, indignant
 - to be embittered, irritated
 - to visit with bitterness, to grieve (deal bitterly with)
- Paul would not say these things if he didn’t know that that would be a natural tendency on the part of men to deal with their wives in these ways.
- Ephesians 5:33—the central need that a wife has is to be loved and cherished no matter what. The central responsibility that every husband has is to provide loving headship for his wife.

The Role of the Wife

- Ephesians 5:22-24—what does it mean to submit?
 - To arrange under, to subordinate, to put in subjection, obey, to submit to ones control, to yield to ones admonition or advice.
- “As unto the Lord,” God’s will for a wife is to submit to the authority that God has placed in her husband. When a wife submits to her husband she is following the God ordained plan for marriage.

- I Corinthians 11:3—God has established an order of accountability.
- The word head is that same word used to describe Christ position as the head of the Body of Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:22, 4:15
 - Colossians 1:18, 2:10, 19
- Just as Christ serves as the head of the Body of Christ the husband is the head of the wife and she is instructed to submit to his authority.
- Husbands, what kind of headship does Christ use to lead his Church? Colossians 3:14—Christ leads his Church based on his grace and his unconditional love displayed at Calvary. The husband is not supposed to be a little Adolf Hitler or Joseph Stalin.
- Genesis 2:23-25, 3:7, 16-17—Because of the entrance of sin into the world God ordained that the husband should rule over his wife. As a result, the natural tendency of the wife is going to be to rebel against the authority God has placed in her husband. I am not going to listen to you, you cannot make that decision.
- Ephesians 5:24—The Greek word translated subject verse 24 is the same word that is translated submit in verse 21 and 22
- In how many things is the wife supposed to be subject unto her husband? Everything
- That is why women must choose their mate wisely. No missionary dating.
- Colossians 3:18—It the eyes of the Lord it is fitting and proper for a women to submit to her own husband.
- Ephesians 5:33—The central need that a husband has is respect. The husband wants to feel like he is his wife's hero and champion that no matter what anyone else thinks about him she will always love him.
- Your husband will not compete with you in your marriage he will check out mentally and emotionally before he will compete with you.
- A women's tenancy is to manipulate things.

What's Wrong With My Marriage?

- There are two primary reasons that marriages fail and they both center around not properly understanding Ephesians 5:32.
 - *Unrealistic Expectations*
 - Unrealistic—inappropriate to reality or fact
 - Expectation—the act or state of expecting, anticipation

- An unrealistic expectation is expecting someone to do something for you which they cannot.
- *Misplaced Dependences*
 - Misplace—to put in a wrong or inappropriate place, set on the wrong object or eventuality
 - Dependence—the quality or state of being influenced or determined by or subject to another
- Misplaced Dependences are relying on someone or something that cannot provide what one desires.
- I'll be happy when I get married, I got married so that all my problems would be taken care of, I got married so that I would have unconditional love and acceptance, I got married so that I could retire. I expect my spouse to . . . This was not what I signed up for, I am so unfulfilled, My spouse is a loser that doesn't meet any of my needs.
- There are people in this room right now who are disillusioned with their marriage and/or spouse because of unrealistic expectation and misplaced dependences.
- Your marriage is not what you signed up for because you seeking to get from another human being what you can only get from Jesus Christ.
- If you are seeking to have you deepest emotional needs meet by another human being you will always end up disappointed because you are asking them to do the impossible.
- Romans 5:8-9—how much does Christ love you? He died for you when you still a sinner and an offence to him.
- Colossians 2:9-10, 3:2—you are complete in Jesus Christ we need to look to Christ to meet these needs not our spouses. Because when we ask our spouse to meet these needs for us we are setting them up for failure and therefore our disillusionment with their inability to measure up.
- Ephesians 1:6—if you have trusted Jesus Christ you are loved and accepted and secure in and at peace with God.
- Understanding these realities frees you up to serve your spouse in love knowing that all your soulish needs are meet in Jesus Christ and therefore not expecting your spouse to do something they are not capable of.
- Ephesians 5:32—that's why Paul uses the example of Christ and the church.

Practical Advice For Husbands and Wives

- Genesis 2:21-23—news flash men and women are different
 - Women are more emotional and relational than men

- Men are more logical and competitive
- I Peter 3:7—shopping, problem solving and not listening