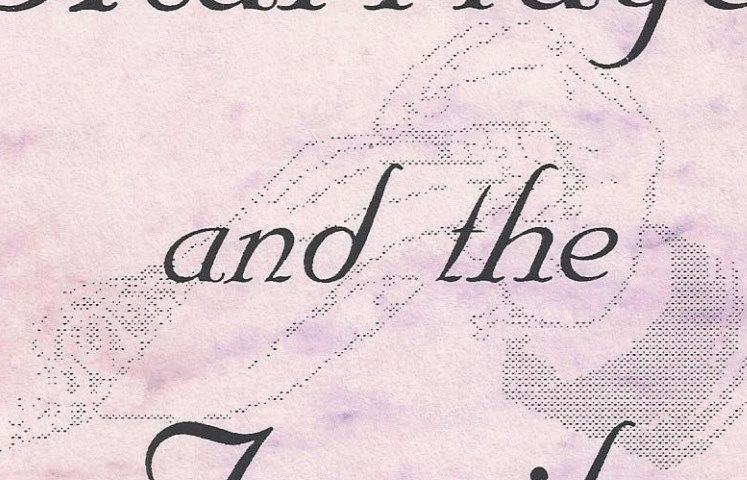


Lessons on
Marriage
and the
Family



Tom W. Snyder

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Courtship & Marriage

Introduction:

1. Statistics call for alarm--see current stats
2. What do we do about such numbers?
 - 1) Teach--Deut. 6:7
 - 2) Provide the proper home life: mother/father
 - 3) Provide the proper example--2 Tim. 1:5
 - 4) Provide discipline--Prov. 22:16
 - 5) Give them a sense of responsibility
3. What can the church do?
 - 1) Teach
 - 2) Work with them
 - 3) Let them see Christians
4. This is one of the purposes of this series of lessons
 - 1) Children usually aren't what they ought to be by accident
 - 2) We must continue to work with them

I. THERE IS A STANDARD FOR OUR BEHAVIOR.

1. Man says situational ethics--if it doesn't hurt anyone, if all parties consent, then it is not wrong
2. This leaves God out of the picture--which is what many want
3. Note 2 Tim. 3:16,17
4. We see the results of man's thinking on marriage
5. Marriage is not a religious tradition, it is of God and applies to all, 2 Pet 1:3
6. It is often sad, but the only thing some are taught on the subject is what they see and observe at home and with their friends

II. SOME THINGS ABOUT DATING.

1. Dating is a social custom
 - 1) In our country it represents a coming of age, social acceptance, independence
 - 2) Dating often has many pressures--from parents, peers, self
2. Some good points about dating
 - 1) Socialization--prepares for later social roles

- 2) Learn how to get along with the opposite sex
 - 3) Personality development--many personalities
 - 4) Fun
 - 5) Talk
 - 6) Help realize the one you will want to marry
3. Dangers of dating
- 1) Immaturity
 - A. Knowledge does not equal maturity
 - B. Knowledge does not equal morality
 - 2) Pressure
 - 3) Fornication--more opportunity
 - A. Free time
 - B. Money available
 - C. Car
 - D. Social acceptability and pressure
 - E. Media--T.V., music, role models
4. While dating is a social custom, it falls under God's laws
- 1) 1 Cor. 7:1-3
 - 2) Mt. 5:16
 - 3) Eph 6:1-2
5. Be careful whom you date:
- 1) They need to be marked by purity
 - 2) They need to be faithful Christians
 - 3) Remember--you will not marry someone you have not dated

III. COURTSHIP.

1. What courtship is not
 - 1) We are not now speaking of casual dating
 - 2) Courtship is not
 - A. Sex, 1 Cor. 7:1-3; 1 Thes 4:3; 2 Tim 2:22
 - B. Hollywood love
 - C. Just having a good time
 - 3) Courtship is not marriage--never feel locked in. It is much better to call off an engagement or wedding than the

marriage by divorce

2. What is courtship?

- 1) A time for spiritual foresight--where will this lead my soul, work in the church?
- 2) A time to discuss the future--children, money, in-laws, where to live and work
- 3) A time for honesty--remember, you are contemplating a lifetime together--don't put on a front, only to take it down after marriage

IV. SOME THINGS ABOUT MARRIAGE.

1. Be careful where you get your information

- 1) Not necessarily from parents
- 2) Not necessarily from friends
- 3) Not necessarily from books
- 4) Not necessarily from the preacher
- 5) Not necessarily from counselors
- 6) Not from T.V. and "Soap Opera" books

2. What to use

- 1) The Bible--not just selected passages explicitly on marriage, but also that which changes the heart; that which offers practical advice, such as the proverbs
- 2) Use some plain ol' common sense
- 3) Think

3. Marriage is of God

- 1) It is a privilege
- 2) It is not for man to tamper with, change, or take lightly

Conclusion:

1. We are dealing with things which--
 - 1) Affect our relationship with God, Gal. 5:19-21
 - 2) Affect our own body, 1 Cor. 6:18
 - 3) Affect our relationship with one another,
2. These things are serious and have life-long ramifications
3. Let us teach and let us learn

THIS GREAT MYSTERY

Introduction:

1. Chapters 1 & 2 of Genesis are chapters of beginnings
 - 1) Ch.1, beginning of the cosmos
 - 2) Ch. 2, beginning of the human race
2. Chapter 2 points out many fundamental facts of God & man. We see--
 - 1) Faith, obedience, love, law
 - 2) The two-fold nature of man, v.7
 - 3) God required work, v.15
 - 4) God demanded loyalty to Himself, v.17
 - 5) Man's position on earth, v.19,20
 - 6) Love
 - 7) Marriage
3. Read verses 18-25
 - 1) From the beginning of time, marriage has been an honorable state
 - 2) God made the first wedding, He should be the basis of all
 - 3) There should be a love triangle (God & one another)
 - 4) Although tampered with by man, the state shall exist till the end of time
4. There is another marriage the Bible speaks of
 - 1) Read Eph. 5:22-33
 - 2) Here the Bible speaks of an eternal union

Discussion: Let us notice concerning this marriage--

I. THE BASIS OF THIS MARRIAGE.

1. **Marriage is based upon courtship**, Eph 2:13-15
 - 1) Christ the loving groom
 - 2) He came to earth to court man and to win him, Eph 2:13-15; Lk 19:10
 - 3) This courtship consisted of the giving of His blood
2. **Marriage is based upon love**, Eph. 5:25
 - 1) The church is based upon love, Jn. 3:16; 14:15
 - 2) Consider marriages not founded upon love

- 3) Can the church be founded on anything other than love?
3. **Marriage is based upon mutual faith and trust**
 - 1) Marriage without this is destined for ruin
 - 2) In this spiritual union there must be this quality

II. QUALITIES OF A MARRIAGE. IT INVOLVES—

1. **The marriage involves submission, Eph 5:22**
 - 1) Many have taken this out of their relationship
 - 2) The feminist movement has made this a point of disgrace
 - 3) The Bible has given the proper instruction
 - 4) Wives to their **own** husband, Eph 5:24
 - A. Man has abused this in both extremes
 - B. They try to do away with God's pattern
2. **The marriage involves a head, Eph. 5:23**
 - 1) The husband is the head of the wife
 - 2) Here is the comparison as Christ is the head of the church
 - A. Not to be abused, used or any way mistreated
 - B. But to be lifted up and loved
3. **The marriage involves love, Eph 5:25, 33**
 - 1) As Christ loved the Church
 - A. Giving
 - B. Sacrificial
 - C. Willing
 - D. For the benefit of another
 - 2) When we understand the love Christ had/has for the church we can see the love that ought to exist between husband and wife
4. **The marriage involves giving, Eph 5:25**
 - 1) We see the degree in which Christ gave. We see the degree His bride must give, 2 Cor 8:5; Rom 12:1
 - 2) There must be a mutual giving in a marriage as well
 - A. Some have said it is a 50/50 proposition
 - B. It must go beyond this
 - C. We must give ourselves completely to the marriage
5. **The marriage involves purity Eph 5:26-27**

- 1) In all faithfulness, Rom. 7:1-3
 - 2) Adultery has brought many to ruin
 - 3) If we can see the ugliness and sinfulness of spiritual adultery with the world then they can see as well the terribleness of the physical
 - 4) Consider ourselves, Js 4:4
 - 5) Adultery breaks up a marriage, Mt. 19:9; it is that which separates us from God
6. **The marriage involves grave responsibilities, Eph 5:28-29**
- 1) Full-time
 - A. A part-time marriage never is what it should be
 - B. There is no such thing as a part-time Christian
 - C. At what time can one lay down his Christian responsibilities? Work? Play? Vacation?
 - 2) Worked at
 - A. Many marriages fail because of the lack of work; work at
 - A) Love at all times
 - B) Patience
 - C) Understanding
 - D) Providing
 - E) Working out problems
 - 3) The Christian life requires work
 - A. Paul described it as work, 1 Thess. 1:3
 - B. The Christians there did work hard
 - 4) It takes effort to--
 - A. Show love at all times
 - B. Be patient
 - C. Live faithfully
 - D. Study God's Word
 - 5) Anything that requires little effort usually has little worth
 - 6) Consider Heb. 2:1-2
7. **The marriage involves a move, Eph 5:30-31**
- 1) When united to Christ there must be a move
 - A. Our address is no longer of the world

- B. It is in Christ
- C. It involves a new way of life--new responsibilities
- 2) It is not good for a married couple to remain at home, Gen 2:24
- 3) Just as the Christian life is a brand-new life so is a new marriage
 - A. New loyalty
 - B. new responsibilities
 - C. New direction

Conclusion:

- 1. We have a most precious relationship with Christ
- 2. We are the bride of Christ
 - 1) Based upon a proper courtship, love, faith
 - 2) It includes a head; a move; giving
 - 3) It must be full-time; worked at; without fornication
- 3. A marriage requires a union
 - 1) We cannot be married to Christ without a union to Him
 - 2) We can/must love Him to the point of belief, repentance, confession. This is not the marriage
 - 3) We are united together in baptism, Rom. 6:1-6;
 - 4) Eph 4:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

ANCIENT LANDMARKS OF MARRIAGE

Introduction:

1. Read Prov 22:28; Deut 19:14
2. The landmarks were very important in determining the appointed boundaries
3. These landmarks were not just of man's doing, but of God
4. To remove them was to upset God's plan of things
5. God has set the boundaries for man and let us not remove these ancient landmarks

Discussion: Let us notice the landmarks of marriage--

I. DIVINE IN ORIGIN.

1. Man did not invent marriage
2. God looked upon His creation, saw that man was alone, and made woman for him, Gen 2:18
3. Christ pointed people back to the ancient landmarks, Mt 19:3-9
4. The inspired writers recognized that marriage was from God,
5. Because God is the author of marriage, this gives Him the right to set up the landmarks

II. DELIVERED TO ALL.

1. God has given the privilege and blessings of marriage to all men and women, 1 Cor 7:1,2, 1 Tim 4:3
2. Some men & women have abused it
 - 1) Resulting in unhappiness and misery
 - 2) Resulting in loss of right to marry, Mt 19:9
3. Only the observing of the ancient landmarks can provide us the hope of a marriage as God would have it

III. DEMANDS ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN,

1. It is to be monogamous, 1 Cor 7:2 cf. Gen 2:18, not--
 - 1) One man & many wives
 - 2) Many husbands & one wife
 - 3) Two men or two women
 - 4) Man & beast
2. It is a closed relationship, Mt 19:9
 - 1) One man, one woman, none others

- 2) Others become adultery
3. To break this arrangement is to forfeit the happiness & blessings from God

IV. DECREED AS LIFE-LONG.

1. The vows of marriage, "till death do us part" express God's design, Rom 7:1-3
2. Too many change this ancient landmark to:
 - 1) Till love departs
 - 2) Till sickness
 - 3) Till I find another I like better
 - 4) Till too many problems come
3. Christ describes this attitude as hardness of heart
4. When this landmark is removed--
 - 1) Marriage on the whole suffers--gets a bad name
 - 2) The nation suffers
 - 3) The children suffer
 - 4) The future suffers
 - 5) The church suffers

V. DETERRENT TO FORNICATION, 1 COR 7:1-5.

1. While the marriage cannot be based solely upon the sexual relationship, it is--
2. The only God-approved avenue of the sexual expression
 - 1) Pre-marital sex is sin, 1 Cor 7:2
 - 2) Extra-marital sex is sin, Heb 13:4
3. God gave the privilege of sexual bond
 - 1) The abuse is sin
 - 2) The abuse is fraud, 1 Cor 7:5
 - 3) The abuse the only cause for divorce
 - 4) The abuse carries not only the consequences of any sin, but in the divorce case, forfeiture of married life, Mt 19:9
4. To remove this landmark opens the floodgate to misery

VI. DEMONSTRATES CHRIST & HIS CHURCH.

1. Read Eph 5:31-33
2. There is a relationship between Christ & His church and the husband and his wife

- 1) Involves ownership, v.22
 - 2) Submission of wives, v.22
 - 3) Headship, v.23
 - 4) Love & Giving v.25,
 - 5) Purity, v.26
 - 6) Leaving & cleaving, v.31
3. When this landmark is removed, it loses its lofty and exalted position that God gave to it through Christ

Conclusion:

1. People are having many problems with marriage today
2. Much of this is brought about through perverting God's plan for marriage
3. If our marriages are to be as God intended, they must be established upon the "ancient landmarks"

What of the Children?

Introduction:

1. Children are loved of God, Mt. 19:14
2. God's eyes are open to their care
3. Man has always abused children
 - 1) Abortion
 - 2) Child labor
 - 3) Slaves
 - 4) Abuse: mental, sexual, neglect, physical
 - 5) Lack of discipline
 - 6) Spoiling

I. CHILDREN HAVE ENEMIES.

1. The enemies of children are often viewed as long-haired, scar-faced, ragged-looking, smelly perverts. Such is not necessarily so
2. The TV and music can be a great enemy
3. The mall can be a great enemy
4. School can be a great enemy
5. Friends can be a great enemy
6. Parents can be a great enemy
7. The parents' jobs can be a great enemy

II. CHILDREN HAVE FRIENDS

1. Faithful parents
 - 1) Psm 127:3
 - 2) Parents are guardians of God's heiratage, 2 Tim 1:5; 3:15
2. Bible class
3. Christian friends
4. Those in authority

III. WHAT DO WE OWE OUR CHILDREN?

1. The necessities of life, 1 Tim 5:8
 - 1) It is not up to the government
 - 2) Nor is it your parents' responsibility
2. Quality time, Eph 5:16 *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*—consisting of
 - 1) Discipline

- 2) Instruction
3. Discipline
 - 1) Discipline is more than just corporal punishment
 - 2) It involves saying and meaning NO
 - 3) It involves a set of rules to guide and guard a child
 - 4) Its primary goal is to teach respect of authority, some day someone else will say "no" to your child
 - 5) Its ultimate goal is for your child to go to heaven
 - 6) It involves both "negative" and "positive" methods of discipline
 - 7) Note what the Bible says about physical punishment, Prov. 19:18; Prov. 22:15; Prov. 23:13-14; Prov. 29:15; Prov. 29:17
 - 8) Applied psychology: "A little pat on the back . . . a little low . . . a little hard . . . a little frequent . . . and with a little brush."
 - 9) Discipline involves making children accountable for their actions -- adulthood
 - 10) Discipline must include encouragement, Eph. 6:4
4. Instruction, Prov. 22:16; Deut 11:18-19
 - 1) The father's **message**, "my words", v.18
 - 2) The father's **master**, "bind them", v.18
 - 3) The father's **mission**, "teach them", v.19
 - 4) The father's **method**, "speaking", v.19
 - 5) The father's **manner**, "when thou walkest . . .", v.19
5. A Christian home
 - 1) Where God is revered and worshipped
 - 2) Where each member takes his place before God, Eph.5:23-25; 6:1-4
6. A good example
 - 1) Luke recorded what Jesus "began both to do and teach"
 - 2) 1 Tim 4:12

IV. A CONTRAST IN FATHERS.

1. Abraham. Notice the things the Lord knew about this father: Gen. 18:19
 - 1) HE WOULD COMMAND HIS CHILDREN:

- 2) **THEY SHALL KEEP THE WAY OF THE LORD:**
- 3) **THEY SHALL--DO JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT:**
2. Eli. We read of his children that--
 - 1) **THEY WERE WORTHLESS:** (1 Sam. 2:12). "the sons of Belial". Why were they worthless? Read on.
 - 2) **THEY KNEW NOT THE LORD:** (1 Sam. 2:12).
 - 3) **THEY WERE UNJUST:** (1 Sam. 2:13-17). They were taking anything they wanted, taking it before it was offered to the Lord and taking it by force.
 - 4) **THEY COMMITTED FORNICATION:** (1 Sam. 2:22). This was bad enough, but they were using their office as priest and judge to do so and as such they perverted judgment, (1 Sam. 2:25).
 - 5) **THEY WERE UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS:** They were priests of God, but in name only. They were selfish, thinking only of their own pleasures. Samuel, being a child and not old enough, was ministering to the things of God (1 Sam. 2:18). Symbolic to what was happening in this family and in Israel, "*the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord*" (1 Sam. 3:3), which was meant to be burning forever, (Ex. 27:20,21).
 - 6) Why were these sons of Eli like this, so worthless--"*because his sons made themselves vile, AND HE RESTRAINED THEM NOT.*" (1 Sam. 3:13). Often children fall away from their father's teaching, but here is one who did not provide the proper discipline and the results were devastating to them and those round about.
3. **When it comes to children, we hold a great power in our hands, Josh 24:15**
4. **Psa 127:1-3 Except the LORD build the house,**

Conclusion:

1. **What of the children?**
 - 1) **They are ours for a time, ours to give to the Lord**
 - 2) **They are as clay in the hand which will one day harden**
2. **In 1976 a poll asked 10,000 mothers whether they would choose to have children if they had that decision to make over again. 70% said they would not!**
 - 1) **Life should be better than this.**
 - 2) **It can be with God's help**

WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE HOME?

Introduction:

1. The home is in much trouble today
2. This is evidenced by: broken homes; abused children; abused wives; fighting families
3. Marriage is not to be taken lightly, for children are the home of the future
4. What we teach our children by word and deed will influence them in their future homes

Discussion: What is the hope of the home?

I. THERE MUST BE A PROPER PLACE FOR CHRIST.

1. Marriage is for those who love God and one another
 - 1) Marriage is not a "just my business" affair
 - 2) God must be included, Gen 2:23-24
2. Christ must be at the head of the marriage
 - 1) He is to be in control—through His word
 - 2) Without Christ, it is a Christ-less home without His benefits and blessings

II. CHRIST IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE HOME.

1. Man's answers are worthless and ungodly
 - 1) "Open Marriages". This in reality is not open love but open lust!!
 - 2) "Cheating is healthy". The medical profession is proving this false
 - 3) "Trial marriages". Marriage is the easiest contract to get out of
 - 4) "Shacking up". No love, no trust, no goal, no future
2. Our generation has tried these and has caused only more problems
 - 1) Unwanted children
 - 2) Broken hearts
 - 3) Deserted wives and children

- 4) Diseases: V.D. AIDS
3. Many look to Christ for hope and guidance in salvation, worship, morals, yet not the home
4. Christ, who controls these, should also control and direct the home, Mt 19:9 Eph 5:23-25

III. CHRIST DOES DIRECT THE HOME.

1. Christ does give the proper relationships:
 - 1) Husband
 - A. Leader, Eph 5:23
 - B. Provider of physical necessities--and not just so long as I have a job I want, 1 Tim 5:8
 - C. Love wife, How?
 - A) Not just as a child-bearer, house-cleaner, sexual partner
 - B) As Christ loves the church, Eph 5:25
 - 2) Wife
 - A. Be in subjection to one's husband, Eph 5:24
 - B. Be loving wife, Tit 2:4
 - C. Be keepers at home, Tit 2:5
 - D. Note what the world has done to the mother
 - A) Humanistic efforts (ERA, NOW, etc.) have dethroned the wife & mother and made it a degrading, unfulfilling thing
 - B) Society has made it acceptable to reject motherhood. Look how many and who does it
 - C) Materialism gave it an excuse--we need (we want)--"I must work"
2. Christ controls the physical relationship, 1 Cor 7:3-5
 - 1) Within the confines of marriage to avoid fornication, Heb 13:4
 - 2) Man sins when he alters God's plan, 1 Tim 4:1-3
3. Christ produces the proper spirit, 1 Pet 3:1-7
4. Christ forms the heart

- 1) Forgiveness, Col 3:13
 - 2) Kindness, Eph 4:32
 - 3) "Golden Rule" Mt 7:12
 - 4) Giving, Eph 5:25
 - 5) Cherisheth, Eph 5:28-29
5. Christ has given all that is necessary for the marriage to be as it ought to be

Conclusion:

1. Marriages do not fail because of God—He has given everything it takes to make a great marriage
2. Marriages fail because man has failed God
3. The **only** hope for the home is Christ Jesus

WHAT IS LOVE?

Introduction:

1. Love is a much-used and much-abused word
 - 1) "I love hamburgers"
 - 2) "I love my dog"
 - 3) "I love my truck"
 - 4) "I love my children"
 - 5) "I love my wife"
 - 6) "I love my brethren"
 - 7) "I love the Lord"
2. No wonder there is a problem with the word love
3. A man can go in to a prostitute and it is called "making love", when it was not love but lust and fornication
4. Hollywood has ruined love
 - 1) Love at first sight
 - 2) Love written in the stars
 - 3) Love is chemical, spiritual
 - 4) Love is an emotional feeling
 - 5) They speak of "falling in love"

I. WHAT LOVE IS NOT.

1. **Love is not lust**
 - 1) The Bible uses two words, "phileo" and "agape"—neither is lust
 - 2) Mt 5:28; Js 1:14-15; 1 Tim 5:1-2; 2 Pet 2:14
 - 3) Girls want to be sexy. Sexy means: arousing or intending to arouse sexual desire or interest, There is no such thing as "sexy car"
2. **Love is not the absence of discipline, Heb. 12:6**
3. **Love is neither the approval nor toleration of sin, Psa 119:97**
4. **Love is more than an emotion, 1 Cor.13:4-7**
5. **Love is not something you need to fall into**
 - 1) Falling is--accidental, unplanned, unexpected, dangerous
 - 2) You fall off a ladder--may break a leg; fall into the water--may drown; fall into fire--burnt; fall off a

building--may be killed

6. **Love does not come naturally**

- 1) Children learn from parents
- 2) Aged women need to teach the younger, Tit 2:4
- 3) Without true knowledge some are involved in unnatural affection, Rom 1:26-31

II. WHAT LOVE IS.

1. 1 Cor. 13:3-7

- 1) **It's giving; but more than mere giving**--You can give children everything and not love them--"*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*"
- 2) **Is patience**--"*Charity suffereth long,*"
- 3) **Shows kindness**--"*and is kind;*"--some are sweet to others, but hateful to partner
- 4) **Is generous**--"*charity envieth not;*"--time, money
- 5) **Is humble**--"*charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,*" -- considers the weaknesses and faults of others
- 6) **Is courteous**--"*Doth not behave itself unseemly,*"--time too often diminishes the kindness of the honeymoon
- 7) **Is unselfish**--"*seeketh not her own,*"--love for the benefit of the other not, what can I get out of it
- 8) **Good tempered**--"*is not easily provoked,*"--
- 9) **Is guiltless**--"*thinketh no evil;*"--true to the vows
- 10) **Sincere**--"*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*"--after a time our mates will see right through us
- 11) **We seek the total good of the ones we love**--"*Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*"

2. Eph 5:25--what is the love of Christ?

- 1) Its a revealed love, Rom 5:8; 1 Jn 3:1,16-18
- 2) Its a giving love, 1 Jn 3:16
- 3) Its a forgiving love, 1 Jn 4:9-10
- 4) Its a love that goes the extra mile, 1 Pet 2:21-24; Mt 5:38-42

- 5) Its a love that cannot be quenched, Rom 8:35-39
- 6) Its a love that is trustworthy & stable, Heb 13:8
- 7) Love must be worked at for at times we are not very loving

Conclusion:

1. Love is a word that should be very dear to us
2. It is a word with great meaning to us and should not be used in a frivolous manner
3. As we have seen love does not come without effort and knowledge
4. Let us work at love that we may teach and show our children what true love is

WHO'S IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT?

Introduction:

1. There is the necessity for someone to be in the driver's seat
 - 1) There is no such thing as automatic pilot
 - 2) There is but one driver's seat
2. In any institution, someone must be in authority--it cannot run by itself
3. In the home this is also true--there are often questions of authority and worse yet great power struggles
4. Let us note some points pertaining to authority

I. THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF AUTHORITY ALL OVER.

1. Not just a problem of youth
2. In all walks of life there are those who have rejected the authority of God
 - 1) In schools
 - 2) In courts of law
 - 3) In religion
 - 4) In families
 - 5) In morality
3. With this comes the rejection of other authorities
 - 1) Disrespect for laws
 - 2) Disrespect for law enforcers
 - 3) Disrespect for ownership & property
 - 4) Disrespect for life--of others and self
4. Authority problems are easily passed on to the next generation

II. WHAT IS THE CHAIN OF AUTHORITY?

1. God has all authority, Gen 1:1; Mt 28:18; Col 3:17
2. He has given authority to the government
 - 1) Rom 13:1-5
 - 2) Children must be taught and shown authority to those in such authority
 - 3) The exception, Acts 5:29
3. He has given authority of certain individuals over another
 - 1) Business
 - 2) Master/slave relationships

4. He has given elders authority within the church
 - 1) They do not rule the government, business nor the home
 - 2) They do rule the church, Heb 13:17
5. He has given an order of authority within the home

III. GOD HAS SET THE PARENTS OVER THE HOME.

1. As with all places of authority, it is under the rule of Christ
2. He has given the father to be the head of the house, Eph 5:25; 1 Tim 3:4,12
3. The mother has a place of authority, 1 Tim 5:14
4. It is to be a joint effort, Eph 6:1,2
5. This has been ordered from old time, Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16

IV. PARENTS HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE UP THIS AUTHORITY.

1. Some have given it up to grandparents
2. Some have given it up to in-laws
3. Worst of all it has often been given over to the children
4. Eli is a prime example--1 Sam 3:13
 - 1) Note the sins of his children
 - A. **THEY WERE WORTHLESS:** (1 Sam. 2:12). This is what is meant when they were called "the sons of Belial". Why were they worthless? Read on.
 - B. **THEY KNEW NOT THE LORD:** (1 Sam. 2:12). They were brought up in an environment where they should have known the Lord. They were the sons of a priest and priests themselves; but, for a reason disclosed later, their religion had no bearing on their actions.
 - C. **THEY WERE UNJUST:** (1 Sam. 2:13-17). The priests were allowed to have only the breast and the right thigh as their portion of the sacrifice, (Lev. 7:34). They were taking anything they wanted, taking it before it was offered to the Lord and taking it by force.
 - D. **THEY COMMITTED FORNICATION:** (1 Sam. 2:22). This was bad enough, but they were using their office as priest and judge to do so and as such they perverted judgment, (1 Sam. 2:25).
 - E. **THEY WERE UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS:** They were priests of God, but in name only. They were

selfish, thinking only of their own pleasures. Samuel, being a child and not old enough, was ministering to the things of God (1 Sam. 2:18). Symbolic to what was happening in this family and in Israel, "the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord" (1 Sam. 3:3), which was meant to be burning forever, (Ex. 27:20,21).

- 2) Note his neglect
 - A. Father--parental authority
 - B. Priest--religious authority
 - C. Judge--civil authority
5. King David is another example
6. Whenever this authority is abused there is the great chance of problems
 - 1) At home
 - 2) School
 - 3) Friends
 - 4) Work
 - 5) Civil
7. Where they must learn about authority

V. WHY PARENTS NEED TO BE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

1. The Bible demands it, Eph 6:1-4
2. For the good of the child, Prov 13:1,24; 29:15
3. For the future generations, Gen 18:19; Eph 6:3
4. To preserve law and order
5. For the salvation of souls, Prov 23:1-14; 29:1

VI. GODLY EXAMPLES.

1. Abraham, Gen 18:19
2. Joshua, 24:15
3. Jeremiah 35:5-8, 13-16, 18-19

Conclusion:

1. The question of authority is far-reaching
2. It concerns our existence now, in the future, and eternity
3. Let us learn of authority and teach it

DIVORCE

Introduction:

1. God does not approve of divorce
 - 1) Mt 19:6
 - 2) In fact, He hates it, Mal 2:16
2. Each year more than one million divorces are granted
3. Almost 50% of all marriages end in divorce
4. Divorce is out of the closet with even the "church's" approval
5. Divorce has become easy
6. A psychologist recently said, "It is foolish to expect two persons to spend the rest of their lives together after marriage . . . everyone changes . . . change fosters new desires and needs . . ."
7. Serial marriages are very common
8. Concerning divorce--

I. DIVORCE AMONG CHRISTIANS USED TO BE RARE.

1. "As the world goes, so goes the church"
2. There has been a great apostasy in this area, often to accommodate "our" people in error and the world living in sin
3. The Old Testament gave any number of reasons for divorce, Mt 19:3-8
4. Our Lord gives but one reason for divorce, Matt 5:31-32; Matt 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18
5. Divorce--the Lord hates it and it is not permitted
 - 1) The "remarried" parties put away not for fornication are living in adultery
 - 2) To be put away for fornication forfeits your right to marriage

II. THE WORLD HAS CREATED A PERVERTED MIND SET TOWARD SEX, MARRIAGE, DIVORCE

1. Role models on TV
2. Public political figures from the president down
3. Evangelists
4. Marriage and purity are the brunt of jokes

5. Schools are catering to perverted lifestyles
6. The world overlooks the law of God, Gal 6:5-8
7. What are some of the "reapings" of divorce?
 - 1) Financial repercussions
 - 2) Emotional trauma
 - 3) Social life is affected
 - 4) Spiritual conflicts and problems
 - 5) The parties suffer relationally--there is a change in associations
 - 6) Vocational impacts
 - 7) Parenting skills face new demands
 - 8) Children many times start misbehaving
 - 9) There is a loss of self-esteem and feeling of goodness
 - 10) A new set of responsibilities must be assumed and dealt with
 - 11) They must face God and His Word relative to their actions
 - 12) They must deal with new pressures and demands not known before

III. REASONS FOR DIVORCE.

1. Divorce has become an easy way out in a world of **little discipline**
 - 1) Often when there is little discipline at home, there will be little self-discipline
 - 2) Marriage takes much self-discipline
2. Not concerned with **commitment**
 - 1) This goes back to discipline--some have never been taught commitment
 - 2) Without commitment, when problems come, when things get rough, when things get "boring", they quit
3. Some want to enjoy an **uninhibited lifestyle**
 - 1) They want to enjoy things on their terms
 - 2) These are offended by the thought of a lifetime with one person
 - 3) With some it is a legalized prostitution
4. Some **grow apart** instead of together

- 1) Their single lifestyle does not change
- 2) Soon their's is a cry of "incompatibility"
5. Some have a **perverted love for freedom**
 - 1) "I want to do things when I want to, how I want to, as often as I want to and nothing will hold me down"
 - 2) You cannot do this in a marriage
6. **Disregard for God**
 - 1) Many do not know what God has said, many don't care
 - 2) Atheism, humanism, modernism have taken their grim toll on the family

IV. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PREVENT DIVORCE?

1. If you do not want a divorce, **put your mate first.**
2. If you do not want a divorce, then **learn to express your love to your mate.**
3. If you do not want a divorce, then learn to **live within your means.**
4. If you do not want a divorce, then **do not marry a mate with the idea of reforming him or her.**
5. If you do not want a divorce, then learn to **compromise with each other.**
6. If you do not want a divorce, then seek and **find common goals and directions.**
7. If you do not want a divorce, then **reject interference from in-laws and relatives.**
8. If you do not want a divorce, then learn to **communicate to your mate that which is in your heart.**
9. If you do not want a divorce, then determine today that **your marriage is a gift from God, set apart by God, designed to last as long as you and your spouse live and is pleasing in God's sight.**

Conclusion:

1. Read Psm 119:101-104
2. Let us, as the Lord, learn to have a hate for putting away

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Introduction:

1. Some look to just staying married as the goal for marriage
2. While this seems to be an accomplishment now-a-days, just staying married is not what a marriage is meant to be
3. Many have stayed married all their lives; but their marriage has been plagued we internal problems
4. While there is little we can do about some problems, we can
 - 1) Make sure these do not bring the marriage to ruin
 - 2) Learn to keep problems to a minimum, avoiding some all together
 - 3) Keep small problems small
5. If a marriage is not what it ought to be it will be the fault of the husband or wife or both
 - 1) Not God's fault
 - 2) Not the Bible's fault
 - 3) Not the church's fault
 - 4) Not inlaw's fault
 - 5) Not neighbor's fault
 - 6) Not children's fault
 - 7) Not society's fault
6. These and others might be problems but the way problems are handled will determine their effect upon the marriage

Discussion: Let's consider some things to guard our marriage and make them better

I. TO THE UNMARRIED.

1. Serve God and marry only someone who will also serve God, Josh 24:15
2. Prepare yourself for marriage, Tit 2:4
 - 1) Understand what the Bible says
 - 2) Understand yourself
3. Wait until you are mature enough to marry
4. In this country some marks of maturity include: a car, fighting,

drinking, sex, army, money, marriage, babies,

5. Marks of immaturity.

- 1) **Selfishness**--wrapped up in himself; cares little about troubles, sorrows & needs of others--as a child
- 2) **Ingratitude**--a child is not thankful, he feels the world owes him
- 3) **Demands to have one's own way**--a child wants his way. If he doesn't get it he throws a fit
- 4) **Has little or no sense of responsibility or obligation.** A child has no sense of obligation to clean house
- 5) **The habit of failing to finish what is undertaken.** Children start something then become tired of it, go to something else
- 6) **Inability to meet the conflicts and problems of life with good emotional reactions**
- 7) **The attitude, "It is more blessed to receive than to give."** Children are more interested in receiving
- 8) **Poor standards of judgment or evaluation**--look to wrong standards, role models, etc.
- 9) **To have a poor way of trying to get love,** "If he loves me, he will do thus and so"

6. What are some of the marks of maturity?

- 1) Must have a minimum of intelligence
- 2) Must have a minimum of knowledge
 - A. Man- Know enough to make a living, provide for family
 - B. Woman- Know enough to care for household, children
- 3) Independence--must be a leaving, must be independent to do this, Mt 19:5
- 4) A Christian attitude toward sex
- 5) Willingness to try to make the other person happy, Eph 5:28-29
- 6) Feeling of gratitude instead of self-pity
- 7) Filled with Christian love
- 8) Having a high goal for human life

7. Learn what love is

II. TO CHRISTIAN COUPLES.

1. Put God first
2. Apply Christian virtue and character
3. Know what God says about marriage
4. Work in your marriage
5. Expect there to be mountains and valleys

III. TO THE CHRISTIAN WHOSE SPOUSE IS AN UNBELIEVER

1. Put God first that your spouse can see it, 1 Pet 3:1-5
2. Avoid hypocrisy--don't put on a show
3. Don't become self-righteous
4. Remember the children--they are in an awkward position
5. Wives be in subjection to your husbands, husbands know that you cannot force your wives to be faithful Christians

IV. PROBLEMS.

1. Avoid problems--learn each other's likes and dislikes
2. Follow the golden rule
3. Avoid selfishness
4. **Learn how to fight.** While it is much more desirable not to fight; for many fights do come. When we are angered we need to know how to handle problems that they do not overcome us. When you find yourselves confronting another, regardless who it is, if you will remember these 8 rules you will be better for it.
 - 1) **DO YOUR OWN THING TO COOL OFF** - Anger comes, but learn to control your anger or it will control you. If it takes counting to 10 or taking a walk to cool off, do it. Hot tempers, loud voices, and a mind so clouded that it cannot think straight will not solve any problem.
 - 2) **ARGUE WITH THE RIGHT PERSON** - If the boss made you angry don't come home and fuss at the dog and kick the kids. If you are angry with the children, don't fight with your husband.
 - 3) **ARGUE ABOUT THE RIGHT THING** - If you are upset with the burnt toast, don't fight over the coffee. Discuss the current issue or it will never be solved.
 - 4) **ARGUE AT THE RIGHT TIME** - In front of the kids or friends is a poor time to argue. Often this only deepens

resentments. Right before bed can be another bad time to argue; you toss and turn all night and feel worse the next day. Pick a time by yourselves with time to talk.

- 5) **DON'T BRING UP PAST ARGUMENTS** - Keep them in the past. There are enough problems without "digging up bones" that ought to be dead and buried.
 - 6) **AVOID NAME CALLING** - They might be acting like a child; but to call them one will make matters only worse.
 - 7) **AVOID RECORD KEEPING** - This is often characteristic of a person who loves to fight or is in the habit of fighting—they must have ammunition for the next fight. If something bothers you, discuss it then; don't wait to use it in your next fight.
 - 8) **KEEP IT TO YOURSELVES** - The first inclination is to talk about your fight to your father, mother, or a friend. This, if discovered, so often leads to resentments, then to more problems. Fights are personal—keep them so.
5. **Learn with whom to talk**
- 1) Talk to God about your spouse
 - 2) Talk to one another
 - 3) If you talk to another, defend and build up—never tear them down
 - 4) If you must talk to someone, It is sometimes good to avoid family and friends—these will often give you an answer you want to hear—talk to a total stranger
6. **Put more work and energy into serving God**

Conclusion:

1. **Marriages have long reaching effects, The children, the church, the community, and beyond**
2. **We can control our lives**
3. **And if you have two people pleasing God. There is NO reason a marriage is not what it ought to be**

FRIENDS AND ENEMIES OF THE FAMILY

Introduction:

1. God made the individual
2. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone
3. He thus created the woman and brought them together to form the first family on earth
4. God formed the family and gave organization and order to it
 - 1) Husband as head, to love his wife, Eph 5:23
 - 2) Wife to be in subjection to her own husband & guide the house, Eph 5:22; 1 Tim 5:14
 - 3) Children to obey their parents, Eph 6:1
 - 4) Parents to bring up their children "in the Lord", Eph 6:4
5. The family is important; but through time and circumstances the family has suffered
6. This lesson will show who helps the family and who harms the family

Discussion: Let us note some friend and enemies of the family

I. SOME FRIENDS.

1. **God** is the best friend of the family
 - 1) He not only created the family, but, provided for it all things necessary, 2 Pet 1:3
 - 2) He provided:
 - A. The **Husband/Father**--with due responsibilities
 - B. The **Wife/Mother**--with due responsibilities
 - C. The **Children**--with due responsibilities
 - D. The purest of **Religions**:
 - E. **Governments/Laws** to live a quiet and peaceable life, 1 Tim 2:2
 - F. **Discipline**, 1 Cor 9:27
 - 3) These, and others we won't mention, God provided out of love, that the family may prosper
 - 4) Whenever man departs from this plan the family is the first to suffer, Prov 14:34
2. **The Bible**, a gift of God, is a friend of the family
 - 1) This is the Creator's words, Ps 119:105
 - 2) Herein are God's building blocks for the family, Ps 127:1

- 3) Many can only look to the Bible as a book of restrictions
- 4) They are not restrictions but blessings, Eph 6:1-3
3. **The church** is another friend of the family
 - 1) We love the family
 - 2) Such is the purpose of our Bible classes
 - 3) We teach godly virtues and Biblical principles
 - 4) We ourselves are a spiritual family and recognize the value of the family, 1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:19
4. **Discipline** is a friend of the family
 - 1) Personal discipline is marked by--
 - A. Honest work, 2 Thes 3:10
 - B. Purity of mind & body, Mt 5:8; Js 1:27
 - 2) Discipline of children
 - A. They must know what "No" means
 - B. They are to be trained for the future, Prov 22:6

II. SOME ENEMIES.

1. **Materialism**
 - 1) Not just things but the pursuit of physical things to the neglect of things spiritual, which includes the family
 - 2) What good is a big house with a neglected family?
 - 3) What good is recreation with a lost family?
 - 4) Money is high on the list of the things that cause problems in families--not money, but love of, 1 Tim 6:10; Matt 6:24
2. **Humanism**
 - 1) Humanism exalts man over God
 - 2) Humanism says man can save himself
 - 3) Humanism says man has the better morality system, Prov 14:12
 - 4) When you take the Creator out of the family you have lost the family, Rom 1:22-27
3. **Worldliness**
 - 1) What we mean by worldliness can be summed up by the following verses: Gal 5:19-21; 1 Cor 6:9-11
 - 2) One doesn't have to be involved in each error to make him worldly
 - 3) Think of the families you know that have been ruined by:
 - A. Substance abuse, Booze & other drugs

- B. Covetousness
 - C. Fornication
 - D. Stealing
 - E. Rebellion
4. **Divorce**
- 1) The Lord hates putting away. Not because He hates the family, but because He loves it
 - 2) God's plan is one husband and one wife for a lifetime
 - 3) This has been abused. Those that suffer:
 - A. The children
 - B. The family in general
 - C. The community
 - D. The church
 - 4) How do we stop divorce? Go back to the Bible--learn how to love, live, commit
 - 5) The Lord has given only one exception for divorce, Mt 19:9

Conclusion:

1. The Bible shows the family to be important but there is another family that is even more so
2. The physical families are lost with the passing of time
3. The family of God is eternal
 - 1) We are children of God
 - 2) Joint heirs with Christ
 - 3) Brothers and sisters with one another in Christ
4. How can we be a part of this family?
 - 1) Through the New Birth, Jn 3:5
 - 2) Through obeying the truth, 1 Pet 1:22,23
5. How is this done?
 - 1) We hear and heed the Gospel, Rom 10:17
 - 2) We believe Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, John 8:24
 - 3) We repent of our sins, Acts 3:19
 - 4) We confess Christ as God's son, Mt 10:32-33
 - 5) We are baptized in water for the remission of sins, 1 Pet 3:21
 - 6) We then live a life dedicated to God, Rom 12:1-2

BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FAMILY

Introduction:

1. Marriage is something people take too lightly
 - 1) We spend twelve years studying the 3 "R's" in school
 - 2) We spend time preparing for our careers
 - 3) An enormous amount of time is spent in recreation
 - 4) Little time is spent to prepare for the marriage in which most people will spend most of their adult lives
2. Too many think that--
 - 1) It will all come naturally
 - 2) It will somehow accidentally come to them
 - 3) Trial & error is the approach to take
 - 4) "Love" will work it all out
 - 5) If it doesn't work, "I'll try again"
3. There is a plan that will make marriages work

Discussion: Let us note the building blocks of the family

I. GOD MUST BE THE FOUNDATION.

1. Some build their foundation on:
 - 1) Emotions--they are ever changing
 - 2) Hollywood love--this is unreal
 - 3) Sex--this is short-lived, wants something more
 - 4) Humanism--this is what causes so many to fail, it is a system of selfishness
2. God must be the foundation
 - 1) It is pragmatic--even the infidels who use the Biblical principles will find their marriages greatly blessed, 2 Pet 1:5-9
 - 2) God is the creator of marriage, Gen 2:18-25
 - 3) God is the creator of the man and the woman. He, therefore, knows their needs, Prov 14:12; Jer 10:23
 - 4) God cares about His creation, therefore He will supply their needs, 2 Pet 1:3
 - 5) God has given us a guide, therefore we know it is sufficient to build our marriages upon, 2 Pet 1:3
 - 6) God's word blesses every facet we will allow it to touch:

- A. The soul
 - B. Friends, enemies
 - C. Employers, employees
 - D. Slaves, masters
 - E. Kingdoms, citizens
 - F. It will also bless the husband, wife; parent, child
- 7) It is a problem-solver
- A. How should I love my wife?
 - B. How should I love my children?
 - C. Who should be the head of the home?
 - D. How long does a marriage last?
 - E. What of the sexual relations? Why? With whom? What for? 1 Cor 7:1-5
3. Any other foundation is faulty, Ps 127:1

II. LOVE MUST BE A SUPPORTING PILLAR.

1. Not this high-strung, flighty, emotional, "I'm in the clouds", Hollywood, teenager-type love
 - 1) This is the kind of thing you fall in & out of
 - 2) A marriage cannot survive on this, for the cares of this world have a way of bringing you out of the "clouds" and back down to earth
2. What then is the love a marriage must have?
 - 1) It is the love only the Bible can portray
 - 2) It is the love with which Christ loves His bride, Eph 5:22-23
 - A. A giving love, Jn 3:16
 - B. A sacrificing love, 1 Jn 4:9
 - A) Give up parents, friends
 - B) Money, job, games
 - C. A forgiving love, Col 3:13
 - D. An enduring love, Rom 7:1,2
 - E. A jealous love, Deut 5:9
3. This love involves growth, it takes the will, work, and worthwhile determination
4. Only this kind of love will support a marriage

III. GIVING MUST BE A SUPPORTING PILLAR.

1. One of the leading causes of failure in marriage is selfishness
2. We can see where selfishness would cause problems in all areas, such as--
 - 1) Finances
 - 2) Time
 - 3) Sex
 - 4) Children
3. Giving is a virtue
 - 1) God gave (Jn 3:16); Christ gave
 - 2) Paul echoed the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," Acts 20:35. Would this not apply within the marriage?
 - 3) Must not be a consumer of love but a supplier
4. When both parties are seeking to give instead of saying "Give me", you have a strong support of marriage

IV. MATURITY MUST BE A SUPPORTING PILLAR.

1. Immaturity is another cause high on the list of things which cause marital problems
2. Symptoms of immaturity
 - 1) Selfishness
 - 2) "I want things my way"
 - 3) Goes home to Mama when things go wrong
3. Some keynotes of maturity
 - 1) Responsible--can take care of self and others
 - 2) Patient--what happens when problems come?
 - 3) Understanding--able to see the other side
 - 4) Forgiving--all problem-solving rests upon this
 - 5) Realistic--not in some teenage dream-world
4. Immaturity of either or both cannot support a marriage

V. COMMITMENT MUST BE A SUPPORTING PILLAR.

1. We are living in a world of non-commitment to anything
 - 1) Promises are many, commitment to them few
 - 2) Noncommittal to school, work, friends, church, God

2. Such is the arch-enemy of the marriage
 - 1) Promises are temporary, is the attitude of some
 - 2) Commitment if convenient
 - 3) Commitment only if it works
3. Successful marriage demands commitment
 - 1) To God--marriage is from God. He demands commitment, Gen 2:24; Mt 19:9
 - 2) To the vows--some have tried to change them. This only shows a lack of commitment
 - 3) To one another--this involves love, faithfulness
 - 4) To the world--we made the commitment before the world
4. Without commitment, the marriage will collapse

Conclusion:

1. Marriage is important--we must learn what it takes to build and support it
2. Once we learn these things, they need to be put into our lives
3. Whether not yet married or 60 years married, through God the relationship can grow



