

SCRIPTURAL FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Genesis 2:21-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is God's plan that the home be fashioned according to His will.
- B. ILLUSTRATION: "The old ship of matrimony that God launched in the Garden of Eden has been caught in a cyclone of change...Wedlock is a padlock which leads to deadlock...and the first institution God established has outlived its usefulness." (*Rx For Marital Illness*).
- C. There is a need for better homes in our nation. You don't have to look far to see the devastating effect the breakdown of the home is having on America.
- D. There are many verses that teach how to live the Christian life that should apply first in the home:

I. THE GOLDEN RULE, Matthew 7:12.

- A. More than anywhere else, this should apply in the home.
- B. If you want to have a better husband/wife, treat him/her better.
- C. Quite often, *how we are treated is determined by how we treat others*.
- D. Would you be happy if other members of your family treated you as you treat them?

II. BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, Ephesians 4:32.

A. *BE KIND*:

- 1. Kindness: being good, pleasant, gracious.
- 2. The word "gentleness" in Galatians 5:23 comes from the same Greek word as "kind" in Ephesians 4:32.
- 3. This applies to husbands, wives, parents, children, all.
- *4. Are you a kind person? Would your family agree?

B. *TENDERHEARTED*:

- 1. Just as it sounds.
- 2. Easy to be touched with another's problems or needs. (Children are generally tenderhearted; adults grow out of it.)

C. *FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER*:

- 1. This is a command enjoined on every Christian.
- 2. When a family member asks forgiveness, "I won't hold this against you, and I won't let it affect the way I treat you."
- 3. In the *MODEL PRAYER*: *forgive us as we forgive our debtors*. (Matthew 6)
- 4. WHY forgive? Even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (AND forgets.)

III.. BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN, Ephesians 4:26.

- A. Anger is a very destructive force in any relationship, especially in a marriage.
 - 1. Things are said and actions are taken in anger that people later regret.
 - 2. Anger out of control can do much damage in any setting, especially in the home.
- B. In this context, Paul is telling us that *IF ANGER COMES TO THE HEART*:
 - 1. It must be **controlled** ("do not sin...nor give place to the devil")
 - 2. It must be **dispelled** before nightfall ("do not let the sun go down on your wrath")
- C. Compare this with the meaning of the Greek words often translated "anger" and "wrath"
 - 1. Thumos (most often translated "wrath")
 - a. "*the sudden outburst of passionate anger*" - ZPEB
 - b. "the blaze of temper which flares into violent words and deeds, and just as quickly dies" - Barclay
 - 2. Orge (often translated "wrath", but also "anger")
 - a. "*indignation which has arisen gradually and become more settled*" - Thayer
 - b. "suggests a more settled or *abiding* condition of mine" - Vine
- D. In this passage, Paul is warning about:
 - 1. "sudden outbursts of passionate anger."
 - 2. "abiding, lasting, suppressed anger."
- E. Another important point in this matter: Don't provoke your mate to anger.
 - 1. Some seem to enjoy doing this to see what happens.
 - 2. Others provoke an outburst and later use it against their mate.
- F. How can I deal with anger?
 - 1. Count to ten, say books of the Bible..
 - 2. Don't take Mark Twain's advice: "When angry, count to ten; when very angry, swear."
- G. REMEMBER: Anger is a very destructive force in a marriage.

IV. BE LONGSUFFERING. Galatians 5:22.

- A. "Putting up" with someone.
- B. ILLUSTRATION: "I've been married to him for 30 years, and I think I have suffered a *LONG* time." That's not what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote this passage.
- C. God is longsuffering (2 Peter 3:9). He wants us to be the same.
- D. The IMPORTANCE of longsuffering:
 - 1. Without it, there would be constant turmoil and trouble.
 - *2. Believe it or not, I'm NOT the perfect husband. Just ask my wife. She is very longsuffering with me.
 - 3. Longsuffering is an essential element in the home for ALL members.
- D. To what extent are YOU longsuffering?

V. EXHORT ONE ANOTHER DAILY. Hebrews 3:12-14.

- A. Your mate can help you to heaven, or cause you to be lost. And YOU will have the affect on your mate.
- B. Young people, marry a Christian.
 - 1. There are enough adjustments to make; have religion on your side.
 - 2. Marrying a non-Christian is a tough life; ask someone who did. (While there are some “success stories” of those who converted their mates, that doesn’t usually happen).
- C. Husbands and wives can be a team for good or evil.
 - 1. *Aquila and Priscilla* are always mentioned together because they worked together in tentmaking and spreading the gospel.
 - 2. *Ahab and Jezebel* had Naboth killed, took his vineyard, persecuted Elijah (2 Kings 21).
- D. As a family, always do what God wants you to do.
- E. Make decisions according to the Bible.

VI. PUT LOVE INTO ACTION, 1 Corinthians 13.

- A. Characteristics of love:
 - 1. *Suffers long*: patient; enduring wrong over a period of time.
 - 2. *Kind*: good-natured, gentle, tender; does not speak harshly.
 - 3. *Does not envy*: is not jealous over another’s good fortune.
 - 4. *Does not parade itself*; (Vaunteth not itself): not boastful; not acting superior; doesn’t look down on another.
 - 5. *Not puffed up*: not conceited or proud; not stuck on self.
 - 6. *Does not behave rudely*; (Doth not behave itself unseemly): not rude or ill-mannered.
 - 7. *Does not seek its own*: not selfish, or insisting upon having one’s own way.
 - 8. *Not easily provoked*: not touchy; not quick to take offense.
 - 9. *Thinks no evil*: keeps no record of wrongs; does not impugn motives.
 - 10. *Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth*: hates evil and loves good.
 - 11. *Bears all things*: protects; does not expose to the public one’s wrong-doings. (Especially to in-laws.)
 - 12. *Believes all things*: always trusts; believes good in others.
 - 13. *Hopes all things*: keeps hope in all.
 - 14. *Endures all things*: suffers and bears wrongs from another.
 - 15. *Love never fails*: anything else in this world will let you down.
- B. To put these characteristics in action will ensure a happy home.

VII. EVERY ONE SHALL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF, Romans 14:12.

- A. You might wonder how this verse would fit into family relationships.
- B. Judgment will be on an individual basis.

- *C. Your husband, wife or parents can't save you, no matter how godly they are.
- D. Don't blame someone else for not doing right.

CONCLUSION:

- A. What kind of family life do you enjoy?
- B. Is it based upon what God wants you to do?
- C. Do you want to make it better?

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