



“How To Avoid Divorce, & More” Part 3 (Mark 10:1-12)

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Part 3 – “The Pattern & Practical Challenges of a Godly Marriage”

Read Mark 10:1-12; Part 3 – “The Pattern & Practical Challenges of a Godly Marriage.”

A GODLY MARRIAGE IS A PURE MARRIAGE

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Mark 6:17-18; Acts 24:24-25; The clerk I confronted in Dillard's who was living with her boyfriend.

I believe many do not know why sex outside of marriage is sin.

I Cor.6:13...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

I Cor.6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?

I Cor.6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Romans 6:12-13...do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin...but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

I Thess.4:3-8; Eph.5:3-10

The earthly marriage relationship is to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph.5:32; II Cor.11:1-3).

I believe the only way we are going to see the church gain victory over sexual immorality is to first of all gain a fresh appreciation for and understanding of why sex outside of holy matrimony is sin, & just how sinful it is. Secondly, especially in light of the pervasiveness of sexual sin in our culture (& in the church), it is vital that we become accountable to one another in honest and open brotherly and sisterly relationships (See Eccl.4:12); Thirty plus men signed up for small group ministry at the men's conference, many who confessed that they struggle with pornography. Promote new men's ministries vision, especially small groups.

A GODLY MARRIAGE IS PATTERNED AFTER THE CHURCH

I used to say this the other way around, that the church is patterned after the family. Then I realized that is incorrect. Earthly marriage, which is so temporary, is meant to be patterned after an eternal blueprint (Eph.5:32).

A Mutual Attitude of Submission (Eph.5:21; Phil.2:6-8); The motivation is reverence for and obedience to Christ. The hope for Adam & Eve's marriage was Gen.3:15.

A Biblical Understanding of Authority (I Cor.11:3; I Tim.2:11-13)

There is authority in the Godhead, yet mutual submission.

Note: This is why we do not ordain women as pastors/elders at CC. God called Moses to lead, and when God expanded the leadership under Moses, he chose seventy elders (men). When Jesus chose his leaders for the church, he chose twelve men. This does not mean women cannot be in leadership, only that they are not to be in authority over men.

Answer those who use Deborah the prophetess to try and refute this...This was in a day when male leadership was sorely lacking, God calls Barak to restore the male leadership in the land, and when he fails to take the lead, even Deborah rebukes him, telling him that the way he is going about things, God was going to give the honor of the victory over the enemy to a woman....

Some wrongfully conclude that a mutual attitude of submission cancels out issues of authority, however this is not only unbiblical, but impractical. Without established authority, a society cannot function properly. It's the same with a family...

God gave men authority for two overall purposes: To protect & provide.

The husband's headship

Christ's headship of the church is described in Eph.4:15-16. It is from Christ as head that the body derives its health and grows into maturity. His headship expresses care rather than control, responsibility rather than rule. The head of the body is the savior of the body.

He is to lead, not lord (Gen.3:16b; I Peter 3:7); He is to lead spiritually, as well as by example.

He is to love, not lounge; A servant love (Mark 10:45); Jesus washed the disciples' feet; Practical ways I wash my wife's feet?

One survey of over 2,000 married adults placed sharing household chores as the third most important factor in a successful marriage, behind faithfulness and a good sexual relationship.

A sacrificial love (Eph.5:25); what would my wife say is more important to me than her?

He is to "cleansing her by the washing with water through the word" (Eph.5:26); This is not quoting Eph.5:22 to her, nor is it preaching to her. Cleansing involves grace, mercy, abounding love. It is when the Word becomes flesh and is lived out toward my wife.

The wife's submission

In everything (Eph.5:24); Is there ever a limit? Yes. The wife must never follow her husband into sin. Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

As unto the Lord; This is not a forced submission, but rather a willing submission. It is intended to be in response to the husband's love for his wife...

"...her submission is not to be an unthinking obedience to his rule but rather a grateful acceptance of his care...Whenever the husband's headship mirrors the headship of Christ, then the wife's submission to the protection and provision of his love, far from detracting from her womanhood, will positively enrich it." (Stott, p.226)

A GODLY MARRIAGE LEARNS TO OVERCOME THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF ALL MARRIAGES.

Marriages have so many things to overcome in order to endure. The challenge of faithfulness in a world full of temptation, etc.

The natural differences between male and female.

Illus: A fellow was once thinking of how sailors referred to ships as "she" and "her." He then wondered by what gender computers might be addressed. So he set up two groups of computer experts, the first comprised of women, and the second of men. Each group was asked to recommend whether computers should be referred to in the feminine gender, or the masculine gender. They were asked to give four reasons for their recommendation. The group of women reported that computers should be referred to in the masculine gender because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data, but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help solve problems, but half the time they are the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

The men concluded that computers should be referred to in the feminine gender because:

1. No one but the Creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use each day, 30,000 compared to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "The reason is because we have to repeat everything to men. The husband said, "What?"

The Physiological Differences In Men And Women; Men's bones are heavier, skulls thicker; Men basically live in one room at a time, while women can be in several rooms at once.

They wired microphones to girls and boys ages 2-4 yrs. old and recorded sounds they made. 100% of the girls sounds had something to do with conversation, while only 60% with the boys. 40% of the noises boys made were non-language sounds (car sounds, etc.)

Give a boy a stick and what does he do with it? Makes it into a weapon. And a girl, she puts the mop head on top of it and begins talking to it! Men are made to be warriors. They are out to conquer. They love competition, challenges, they are generally very objective in their thinking. Women are more feeling oriented, nurturing, relational.

A couple is lying in bed and the man says, "I'm gonna make you the happiest woman in the world...The woman replies, "I'll miss you."

One wife prayed "Dear Lord, I pray for wisdom to understand my man, love to forgive him, and patience for his moods; Because Lord, if I pray for strength, I'll beat him to death. Amen."

Two friends were sitting in a boat fishing, when one says to the other, "I think I'm gonna divorce my wife - she ain't spoke to me in over two weeks. His friend spits, takes a sip of his Coke and says, "Better think it over - women like that are hard to find."

Two very imperfect people in the most intimate relationship one can enter into.

PRIORITY IS JESUS

CONCLUSION

Purity? Patterned after the church? Learning to deal with the natural differences and imperfections of any marriage relationship? Jesus your first priority?