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Ephesians 5:25-33
Wisdom for Marriage pt 2
7/4/24

Sermon Recap

Pastor Jason's sermon on wisdom for marriage stresses the importance of both partners following Christ together. This sermon delves into the sacrificial love husbands should have for their wives, focusing on nourishing and cherishing them. Lastly, it highlights the importance of respect in strengthening marital bonds.

Discussion Questions

How can Christians keep Christ at the center of their relationship?

- Pastor Jason emphasized that Jesus is not just an add-on in a Christian marriage, but the center both partners follow, trust, and serve.
- How can you personally strive to keep Christ at the center of your relationships of any kind?

How can you practice "agape" love towards others?

- Agape love is the unconditional and selfless love of God. Pastor Jason emphasized that husbands should love their wives sacrificially, actively seeking their holiness and well-being.
- What are some practical ways you can show agape love to others in your life, whether you are married or not?

What are the roles of nourishing and cherishing one's wife, and why are they important?

- The message stressed that nourishing includes helping the wife grow and develop, while cherishing means proactively protecting her, and being aware of her needs.
- How can you apply the principles of nourishing and cherishing to your own relationships?

How does the mystery of marriage, mentioned by Paul, connect to the importance of respect?

- Paul described the union of a man and woman as a great mystery; Pastor Jason emphasized the significance of respect and highlighted the power of appreciation in strengthening a marriage.
- How can you show respect and appreciation to others in your life?

Prayer

- Ask God to grant us wisdom and understanding in our relationships.
 - Pray for the strength to practice humility and submission in a Christ-like manner.
 - Request God's guidance in loving selflessly, as Jesus loves the church.
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Teaching Notes:

Quick review:

Wisdom is a big part of having a worthy walk with the Lord.

Every successful group that has a mission...

...understands the power of submission.

-Submission is not about value or importance, but action & order

-Submission isn't turning off your brain & following directions

-Submission involves using all you know & doing all you can for the accomplishment of the mission while doing it in your place & in God's order.

-Submission is a choice we make, not one made for us.

...So, don't get involved where you don't want to submit.

And, submission is not really submission...

...until there are two competing missions...

...and one has to yield to the other.

-Biblical submission puts my mission under God's mission.

The big idea is the same:

The key to a successful Christian marriage is both people following Christ as one.

Marriage is not the end all & be all for all Christians...

...Single people are complete and blessed in Christ.

- God designed marriage.
- Marriage is between a man and a woman.

- One reason it was not good Adam was alone is he couldn't multiply by himself.
- When you get married, two become one.

Being married is like having your hands bound together...
 ...Two have to learn how to navigate life as one.

- Men are not more important or valuable.
- It does not mean all women submit to all men.
- It does not mean a husband gets to boss his wife around & drag her wherever he wants to go & she is biblically forced to do whatever he wants because he is the man.

The bible doesn't approve of husbands being selfish bullies...
 ...nor does it encourage wives to be mindless door mats.

In Christian marriage, the husband is the head and responsible for God's direction in their life together. He seeks God, understands situations, listens to his wife, & leads.

Truly, we are all called to love & to submit one to another...
 ...so there is application for all of us single or married.

5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Agape is is the unconditional, no strings attached, love of God.

What did that look like in Christ?

John 13:34 A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another.

Jesus said this after He washed the feet of His disciples.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Or proves)

1. Love with action & purpose.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

Love your wife, like you love yourself...she is part of you.

Nourish is only used one other time in the NT, both in Ephesians.

6:4 "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"

We don't want to be stunted, immature, or behind, so we eat, exercise, read, learn, & listen.

2. Do what helps you grow together.

...Time together growing & connecting is relational nourishment.

Cherish is another uncommon word. Used only 1 other time.

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherishes her children:

It literally means to keep warm and "To protect & lovingly care for"

3. Focus on proactive, protective growth.

It is the oil of the Holy Spirit & the water of the word that keeps our relationships working and producing life & joy instead of having them grind to a halt under the pressure and difficulties of life.

What are practical actions a Christians can take to demonstrate love?

1. Hold hands and pray together
2. Share God's word with her
3. Encourage their walk with the Lord
4. Discuss your heart and listen to theirs
5. Pay attention to their unique qualities
6. Ask them how they are doing
7. Ask them how you are doing
8. Gently help them see blind spots
9. Make sure they are taking care of themselves
10. Help them feel safe

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

The word here for joined is proskollao it means “glued”.

4. Glue to the new & learn from the old.

33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Respect is most often translated “fear.”

5. Treat them like they are awesome.

Be sincere, but be generous, be gracious, see the best.