

L12 | Divine Institutions | Institution of Marriage Pt. 9 | Romans 16:3-4a

I. Intro/Review:

- Love & Authority

II. Preview:

1. Four Aspects of Headship
 1. What is it?
 2. How it is maintained?
 3. What is its purpose?
 4. How is it exercised?
2. Example of Godly Marriage

III. Sermon:

1. **Four Aspects of Headship**
 2. **How it is maintained?**

- He is to faithfully and honorably exercise it that he not lose that headship - not before God, but before his wife.
- If the husband doesn't conduct himself godly as Christ he may lose his wife's respect, esteem, and willingness to submit herself to him.
 - She may do so but not through his endearing, but in her obedience to God
- Living toward her in "understanding" - 1 Pet. 3:7 "according to knowledge"
 - Pro. 17:27

1. Lean not on own understanding, abase himself (Prov. 3)
2. Understand what the will of the Lord is (Eph. 5) - submit to Christ's headship
 - He too is under authority (1 Tim. 2)
 - Wife is equal in bearing the image of God and being an heir of salvation and the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7)
3. Prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God toward her (Rom. 12)
 - Do not neglect responsibilities over its privileges
 - Direct and lead her to Christ
4. Be a man of God entirely
 - He should be worthy of his wife's esteem and submission

1. **Avoid bitterness - Col. 3:19**

- "Bitterness is marked by sharp, sour, and hurtful behavior as well as railing, reviling, rebuking, and furious speech. Bitter words cut

and wound the heart; bitter words carry anger and hatred along with them; bitterness taints the touch with resentment and leaves behind a trail of contempt; and bitterness separates and makes enemies of friends."

2. Avoid wastefulness -

- The husband's provision is for his wife and family - they depend upon it
 - Drunkenness, gambling, games, bad company
 - Such things taint his ability to correct his wife's evil actions when his own judgment is blinded and conscience seared - when he himself needs correction.

1. Avoid mirth - excess merriment

- Always want to play with little care for work and responsibilities
- Not talking about recreation and refreshment
- Soberness

3. What is its purpose?

- For his wife's good - the wife not lesser or inferior
 1. Order of creation (first)
 2. The means of creation (of)
 3. The occasion of creation (for)
 4. Her independent behavior from God and man (1 Tim. 2:14)
- Love compels him to do his wife good, authority enables him to
- His headship empowers his love (Eph. 1&2)

4. How is it exercised?

- He isn't to command anything he wants
- He doesn't have free reign
- He is to be concerned with her spiritual wellbeing and ought not stand idle
 - Therefore, husbands in their rule should be weak to every corruption and strong in every virtue (Tit. 2)
- Direct and instructing his wife
 1. Not as chief and absolute commander - but as one who with her stands under God's power (Gal. 6)
 - Mildness and meekness and gentleness (2 Cor. 10)
 2. Exercise authority with wisdom - godly husbands should be acquainted with wife's temperament and constitution (1 Pet. 3:7) - and treat her according to wisdom accordingly.
 3. Be not hurtful - micromanager, especially in trivial and inconsequential things. She is given as a help and called to be keeper at home and such micromanaging can be demeaning and harmful.

4. His instructions ought not be unreasonable or ridiculous - don't manifest your care when it comes to the governance of her body, but not her heart.

- Should not call his love into question

2. Example of Godly Marriage

- Priscilla & Aquilla
 - Mentioned 6 times - Romans 16:3-4a; Acts 18:2, 18, 26; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19
 - 3 times Priscilla mentioned first
 - Priscilla - little
 - Prisca - aged
 - 3 times Aquilla mentioned first
 - One in marriage - joined in the Lord
 - One in the Lord
 - One in occupation
 - One in companionship with Paul
 - One in pursuit of scripture
 - One in activity in the service of the church
- Marriage can halve your sorrows and double your joys.

IV. Conclusion:

1. Give thanks to God for your marriage
2. Settle your affections fully on your spouse
3. Orient yourself to your roles and responsibilities in marriage - add to the by a performance of them
4. Examine yourself more than your spouse
5. Avoid troubles within marriage
 1. Fear God, know His ways, and follow them
 2. Lead your family in them
 3. Pray often together and for each other
 4. Love not the world, but be diligent in the world
 5. Lean heavily on patience when troubles do arise