

Sermon

Marriage: A Biblical Perspective *Hebrews 13:4-6*

Part III

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

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INTRODUCTION

This morning we are going to begin a series on Marriage & the Family from a Biblical perspective. Fair warning we are going to go places in this series that many will not dare go for fear it will be uncomfortable for either the speaker or the listener, but go there we shall. The reason we have seen such a decline in the family is why we must go there because many have simply avoided the responsibility to teach Biblical principles within the community of the body of Christ on what is true regarding Marriage and the Family.

If we look at many families in the church today they look no different or function no different than the families who don't have Christ. What a sad fact we must accept because we are failing to the world to exemplify Christ in our home as believers. No family will be perfect, but many of us are not even trying to follow the Biblical pattern of the home. We accept less so, therefore, we have less. We wonder why our kids have no respect for the sacredness of marriage because they never found it holy in the home they grew up within. We see many Christians putting on the act, but letting go of the faith.

Paul Harvey, in *If I were the Devil*

I would convince the young that marriage is old fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be, and thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I would just keep on doing what he is doing. (circa 1965)

Marriage is a difficult thing. The Bible even says so...

(Mark Gungor video)

These next few weeks we are going to be looking at the Biblical perspective of marriage and of the family so that we can shed light into our culture by first shedding light into our own homes the foundation of what it means to be a family in God.

Hebrews 13:4-5

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

I. The Sanctity and Sacredness of Marriage

II. The Structure of Marriage

III. The Seal of Marriage

IV. The Service of Marriage

V. The Sexual Life of Marriage

VI. The Stress of Marriage

- A. Many factors play into how a marriage can become stressed or distressed.
- B. How we learn to recognize what causes our marriage to be stressed, and how we learn to deal with that stress has everything to do with the atmosphere and attitude of our marriage. It is the key to a happy marriage.
- C. A happy marriage is not without difficulty; it's in the handling of the difficulties.
- D. Many boast of long marriages, but they weren't always happy marriages. A happy marriage is based in how you handle the stress and grow from it. The best of both worlds is a happy and long marriage.
- E. To recognize or deal with an issue within a marriage, one must have a sense of awareness which sadly in our busy life of today is dwindling within the home.
- F. Awareness is having a keen sense of the reality around you.
- G. Many in marriage don't think beyond our noses.
- H. Many spouses are simply unaware of the needs of their spouse because they haven't stayed aware or become aware of those needs until there is an explosive outburst or event.

- I. Most spouses live clueless.
- J.. Problems within a marriage are rarely overnight. They normally are the end result of a string of events, or lack thereof, where needs are not met and hardly ever talked about.
- K. What are major causes that create a stressful marriage?
- Loss of personal identity. Our personal identity is found in Christ which together gives our marriage an identity in Christ, but sadly when our identity becomes about the other person problems begin to take place.
 - Lack of communication – many assume they are good at communication when they are awful.
 - Lack in understanding in how to disagree in a healthy way.
 - Lack of our needs being met.
 - Frustrations building up and coming out sideways.
 - Lack of having a place to belong.
 - Failure to let things go.
 - Forgiveness is a rarity.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, and don't give the Devil an opportunity.

Colossians 3:12-14 (ESV)

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

- K. Ways to overcome the stress of marriage
- Learn patience; see things the way God sees them.
 - Learn kindness; treat the situation how God would treat it.
 - Learn gentleness; be extra careful to give room for others.
 - Learn forgiveness; be forgiving in light of God's forgiveness.
 - Learn to communicate; learn to articulate yourself.
 - Learn to be open to listen to the other. The number one key to becoming a good communicator is listening.

Mortimer Adler (paraphrase)

The key essential part of closing the communication cycle is listening. We learn to read and write in our elementary years and speak in high school and university, but never are we taught to listen.

- Be honest about your contributions to the point of the contingency.
- Be “real” before you seek to be “right”.
- Be open & introspective to your own life.
- Be willing to change and then take action to do so.
- Seek professional help when necessary.
- Be liberal with forgiveness without being naïve.
- Be intentional to love.

Jennifer Smith

“To know him fully, to love him unconditionally, to respect him always, to forgive him often, to embrace him closely, this is the gift of marriage.”

Ruth Bell Graham

A good marriage is the union of two good forgivers.

VII. The Security of Marriage

Billy Graham

“Nothing can bring a real sense of security into the home except true love.”

Security – means living in a state that is secure

Secure - fixed or fastened so as not to give way, become loose, or be lost.

Hebrews 13:5

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