



Sermon

Part II

Jeff Jackson

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



Marriage: A Biblical Perspective

Hebrews 13:4-6

Part II

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

John 13:14-15

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.

To *Serve* - perform duties or services for.

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement."

HELPER (Heb. *āzār* Gk. *antilēmpsis*).[†] In the Old Testament a helper is one who provides aid or relief, most notably the Lord (e.g., Ps. 30:10; 54:4). Eve (RSV "a woman") is created as a helper or partner for the man (Gen. 2:18, 20; KJV "a help meet for him"; JB "helpmate"; E. A. Speiser [*Genesis*, 3rd ed. (1979), p. 17] reads "an aid fit for him," meaning one "alongside" or "corresponding to him")¹

Matthew 22:37-40

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Question: Do you do for them or do you expect them to do for you?

Dave Willis

"Great marriages don't happen by luck or by accident. They are the result of a consistent investment of time, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, affection, prayer, mutual respect, and a rock-solid commitment between a husband and a wife."

Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord."

Darlene Schacht

"My husband is one of my greatest blessings from God. His love is a gift that I open every day."

Ecclesiastes 4:12

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

¹Myers, A. C. (1987). In [*The Eerdmans Bible dictionary*](#) (p. 480). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

What marriage should be for the individual, the Church should be to the community:

1. A safe place where needs are met.
2. A place where holiness is cultivated.
3. A place where God is revealed.
4. A place where fulfillment can be discovered.
5. A place where God seeks to manifest His goodness.

Matthew L. Jacobson

“Your marriage is the gospel you are preaching to your children.”

Pope Francis

Christian marriage is that sacrament which builds up the community of the Church and of society. Marriage has been inscribed in creation's design by God, and, by his grace, countless Christian men and women have lived married life fully.

R.C. Sproul

In Christian marriage, love is not an option. It is a duty.

*In other words, love is our act of service.

IV. The Sexual Life of Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Now in response to the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have relations with a woman.” But because sexual immorality is so common, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. A husband should fulfill his marital responsibility to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does. Do not deprive one another sexually—except when you agree for a time, to devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again; otherwise, Satan may tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

A. Unhealthy view of sex:

- Because of how the church has handled the topic of sex.
- How our culture has unhealthily looks, talks and thinks of sex.
- Because of how they have grown up viewing or hearing sex talked about, or not talked about, in church and in the home.

- Because of how they have grown up hearing sex only in a context of sinfulness.
- Because they have seen it used as a bargaining chip or in a leveraging way to get what they want and their will accomplished. “Do not deprive one another”
- Because they have seen it used in a disciplinary way to get back at their spouse “Do not deprive one another”
- Because they have seen it as profitable and perverted and never in a holy context.
- They have reduced the sexes to mere sex and nothing more in attempt for hedonistic pleasure.
- All of these are sinful.

B. So what does the Bible say about sex?

- Sex is a gift from God to be used responsibly in the context of marriage.
- Procreation was the first command God gave humanity

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

- Sex is sacred; sadly, many worship sex rather than the God who created it and gave it.
- Many see sex for the self and not as the sacred. It’s not mine nor is it yours; it is ours to be enjoyed.
- Sex comes with boundaries, and those boundaries are in the confines of marriage. Any sexual life outside of marriage is sin. The best way to test the boundaries is if you can’t ask God to bless it then you should not do it.
- Sex comes with responsibility within marriage that we see that when we become “one flesh” then it is not just about my needs, it is our needs that matter.

C. Why should sex be in the boundary of marriage?

- Because sex is sacred.
- Unlike what our culture may say or think in the belief that the Christian view of sex is repressive, sex belongs only in marriage.

Tim Keller

Sex only works in the fullest way God intended for one man and one woman within the exclusive, permanent, legal commitment of marriage. Put another way: sex is a God-invented way to say to another person, “I belong completely and exclusively and permanently to you.”

- The danger of sexual activity before marriage or beyond marriage, impacts the psyche. When a sex life has been developed outside, or before marriage, it can bring false expectations to the marriage. The sexual life was meant to be discovered together by both husband and wife in marriage.
- The pleasure God designed for a husband and wife should be discovered together. Notice also the highest form of pleasure within the sexual life comes at the point of creating new life. The greatest thrill and wonder of sex is when life is created. God gives humanity insight to the wonder of Creation.
- Sex is an act of worship and the art of love because true worship means becoming vulnerable.
- Sex is the most vulnerable physical act one can experience with their spouse, but the act of sex only becomes love when the heart is open in worship to God with one another.
- The difference in heavenly pleasure and hedonistic pleasure is in the appetites and surrender of the heart in regards to its Creator God.
- Many Christians view sex and experience sex the way of the pagans rather than in the freedom of their Creator.

Tim Keller

The Song of Solomon is filled with barefaced rejoicing in sexual pleasure. In fact, the Bible can be very uncomfortable for the prudish.

- The sexual life of marriage should only be halted for spiritual unity with God or for health reasons. It should never be used as a form of discipline or a bargaining chip.
- It should be the culmination of freewill.
- Sexual activity of the married should be paused only for the sake of keeping it spiritual and not just merely physical.
- Spiritual life comes first which only creates deeper intimacy within the physical life.

C.S. Lewis

“When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now.”