

The Issues of Life

Proverbs 4:23

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We are told to keep our hearts diligently concerning the complex issues we all face in this life (Pr. 4:23). Things can get out of control fast and over time in many areas of life. In this study, we will examine the priceless and _____ guidance the Bible offers concerning the issues we all face. We are not left alone to figure out life's issues, but obeying the principles of God concerning these issues may be difficult (Luke 6:46). Today's topic, marriage relationships, is warned to be a problematic area of life (1 Cor. 7:28).

Marriage Relationship Issues

1. WHY We Have Issues in Marriage

- We are differently gendered people trying to find common ground together through our own issues and the issues of life. If we are the same deep down (*equally yoked*), we are equipped to work through _____ issues that come our way through God's Spirit and our biblical skillsets – Gen. 1:27, 2:18-25, 5:2; Ex. 4:25-26; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; Heb. 13:4.

Biblical Responsibilities of Husbands

- ✓ Love her (*like Christ loves you*)
- ✓ Know her
- ✓ Dwell with her
- ✓ Honor her
- ✓ Provide for her
- ✓ Teach/Lead her
- ✓ Protect her

Biblical Responsibilities of Wives

- ✓ Submit to him (*like you do to Christ*)
- ✓ Love him
- ✓ Reverence him
- ✓ Help him

- We have three enemies that war against our marriages:
 - ✓ The **world** (*culture*) – Eph. 2:2a, the **flesh** – Eph. 2:3, the **devil** – Eph. 2:2b; Gen. 3; 1 Cor. 7:5.
 - ✓ Running something God designed our own way (*by culture, our flesh, etc.*) will bring us issues.
- Many look for their spouse to fulfill in their lives what only Jesus Christ can fulfill. They are **expecting the impossible** and setting themselves up for failure. Jesus is and must always remain our first love – Rev. 2:4.

2. SOME Common Issues in Marriage

- **Unequally Yoked Issues**...for many reasons – 2 Cor. 6:14-18
 - ✓ Being unequally yoked will fail to deliver one or more of these qualities to the marriage relationship: *fellowship, communion, concord* (strength), *partnership*, and *agreement*.
 - ✓ **God gives guidance to wives** with husbands who don't _____ God's word – 1 Pet. 3:1-6.
- _____ **-Centeredness Issues** – Tit. 1:7; Matt. 7:1-5
 - ✓ Jesus said that the only way to truly find yourself...is to _____ yourself – Matt. 16:25.
 - ✓ If you can bring yourself to understand that self-centeredness (*yours*) is one of the main problems you will have in your marriage...you are on your way to success – James 4:1-10.
 - ✓ *Inferiority/superiority* complexes are self-centered issues. *Manipulation* is a self-centered issue. *Boredom* in marriage or having a *mid-life crisis* are self-centered issues – Pr. 18:2, 24:21.
 - ✓ Refusal to _____ to maintain your marriage is both lazy and self-centered. In essence, you desert your spouse causing them to lead a separate life and sin – Pr. 24:30-34; 1 Cor. 7:11, 15.

- **Communication issues**...seemingly speaking a different language – James 3
 - ✓ Communication is a key in marriage (*usually more difficult for _____*) – Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:15; Ps. 19:14.
 - ✓ Though you grow to know each other, be careful not to assume your spouse knows your thoughts.
 - ✓ Don't let little things said become big things, try not to speak in absolutes, and don't keep score – Song 2:15.
 - ✓ Identify and then apply the love language that your spouse speaks (*words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, physical touch*).
- **Money and Sex issues** – Luke 12:15; Pr. 30:7-9; 1 Tim. 6; 1 Cor. 6:18; Song 8:6
 - ✓ Statistics show money and sex issues are the two biggest stressors that lead to divorce.
 - ✓ Money issues include being too rich, being too poor, focusing too much on money/possessions.
 - ✓ Sex violations (*all of them*) are avoided by a healthy sex life together – 1 Cor. 7:2-5.
- **Sin and other Life issues** surface (*many varieties*)
 - ✓ Sin makes a mess of everything. Sin comes in many forms (*see all the Bible lists*) and will devastate if left unchecked – James 1:15; 2 Cor. 10:6.
 - ✓ Sin issues may be brought into marriage, develop in marriage, or may be on the horizon _____.
 - ✓ Sickneses/disabilities to you, your spouse, or your children can bring great strain on a marriage (*mental struggles, ALS, autism, sexual/gender issues, etc.*) – 2 Chron. 20:12-13.
- **Negotiating through baggage brought into marriage** from the _____ (*both spouses*) – 2 Sam. 6:16
 - ✓ *In-laws* – Eph. 5:31.
 - ✓ *Former spouses/children* – 1 Cor. 7:28.
 - ✓ *Abuse* while growing up and/or from previous relationships
 - ✓ Note: Wounded people can become self-absorbed and often only talk about themselves. Becoming engrossed in your own pain/problems can make you insensitive to others (*sometimes becoming abusers in your own way*). They are often the last to see this self-absorption – 1 John 5:4.
 - ✓ *Expectations* from your upbringing, personal goals, or past experiences – Ps. 62:5; Rev. 2:4.
- **Key ingredients needed to solve disagreements/problems** and overcome offenses: *Communication, Honesty, Compromise, Empathy, Grace/Mercy, Apologizing, Forgiving, _____, Sense of Humor, Bible Truths, Prayer, Faith* – Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 6:7; Php. 3:14-15; Col. 3:12-15; Heb. 4:12; 1 John 5:4.
- **Key ingredients which enlarge disagreements** and inflame offenses: *Secrecy, Unforgiveness, Bitterness, Unwilling to Change/Compromise, A Focus on the Negative/Seeing the Worst* – Rom. 13:13-14; Eph. 4:29-32.

3. **FIGHT for your Marriage through the Problems you Encounter** – 1 Tim. 6:11-12; 1 Cor. 15:58.

- Marriage is work, but it is work Christians are equipped for. Be bigger/smarter than the problems you encounter through the power of Christ. Work hard not to let selfishness and pride get in the way. Common sense, prayer, and a Bible solves just about anything – 2 Cor. 10:4-6; Php. 4:13.
- A Simple Plan that works with Marriage Problems:
 - Step #1** – _____ the problem(s)...*Be honest together*
 - Step #2** – _____ the problem(s)...*Be circumspect together*
 - Step #3** – _____ the problem(s)...*Be victorious together*
- The problems we overcome through the power of Christ in our marriages display to the world (*seen and unseen*) what the power of God can do in two people yoked together in Christ – Eph. 3:9-12.