

Sunday, June 2nd

Family #1 - Marriage
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Paul taught on marriage in the book of Corinthians, Timothy, Colossians and Titus; however the most extensive teaching is in the book of Ephesians chapter 5.

Peter teaches on it also, and Jesus does but not in depth and he emphasizes walking in love and he confronted the area of divorce, and Solomon has much to say in the book of Proverbs that applies to the wife and the marriage relationship, but he does touch on the husband also.

Proverbs 24:3-4 (AMP)

³ *Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation],*

⁴ *And by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

When you have lived a long time and have been reading the scriptures during that time. Just if you have common sense and refuse to be selfish it would take care of many problems that come along in relationships especially in the home.

So many times people enter the marriage relationship with what can my spouse do for me.

God desires that through the marriage vows we are to become one flesh with our spouse. Statistics have shown that the failure rate is just as high for people who live together before marriage as is for those who don't. The same problems arise in each but there is no commitment if you are living together. Over 50 of marriages are ending in divorce and yet the second marriage unless you have gained some knowledge the statistics are higher and even higher for third and continue to move up with each one. What was designed to be ideal has turned into an ordeal.

Genesis 2:18-25 (KJV)

¹⁸ *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

¹⁹ *And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.*

²⁰ *And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

²¹ *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;*

²² *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

²³ *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

An help meet is an aid, assist or support. They are also someone who is a cheering section to you and also will be an asset morally, physically, and intellectually. Someone who may not have all the answers but does every once and a while, and someone will be a support and an aid in every area. They will not elevate themselves above you they come to be an aid and support you. They haven't come to take the lead and not to dominate.

When marriage takes place the spouse has priority, and the parents are to still be honored. God's plan for marriage was that there be unity, and not disharmony.

The first marriage began with Adam and Eve. Then sin came and immediately strife came into the family. Sin brought all the ugly with it and that is the world we now live in. Marriages are not just affected by sin but we basically have our concept of what marriage is supposed to be from Hollywood. It has the highest divorce rate in America. Someone has commented that unless we go back to the values of the 50's that marriage is almost doomed.

Without submission in marriage it is like having two people working on two different set of blueprints for a house, you have a mess when you get it built. There isn't one purpose. Submit means to on purpose bring yourself under. Just like God can't cause us to submit, we willfully bring ourselves under His plan and purpose.

There are different roles in a marriage relationship and they have to be recognized. In the beginning of a marriage one doesn't know how to differentiate the boundaries and responsibilities in those different relationship roles, but as you grow you will be able to do so. Most importantly as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ we are required to walk in love.

In the following scriptures Paul is specifically talking to the believing husbands and wives. These are the most extensive passages of scripture that we have on the marriage relationship and we will never understand these passages unless first we understand the relationship of Christ to the church or the church to Christ. These scriptures are also what the relationship is without the troubles it has. This is what we are to grow and develop into. What it can and what Jesus intended it to be.

Many times a spouse won't change because of fear that the other won't. Have you ever heard, I will change if my mate will change?

Ephesians 5:21-33 (KJV)

²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

³⁰ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Ephesians 5:22 (AMP)

²² Wives, be subject (be submissive and adapt yourselves) to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord.

There is no place for arrogance or selfishness in a marriage relationship. Getting selfishness out of a relationship is key.

God wants the best for the church. Husbands want the best for their wives. God gives us boundaries and if we operate outside those boundaries there is conflict and disappointment.

Do you believe the bible is true? Then what is keeping you and I from following it and doing right? The bible works and there are priorities.

Father, Bless these people with the love of God and bless them with understanding and revelation. In Jesus name, Amen.