

June 9, 2013

## **Family #2 - Marriage** **Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

***Pr. 24:3-4 "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" AMP***

As we look around at society, our friends and family and the way that we all live, we realize that we need the wisdom and knowledge of God to cause our house to become a home. By design God has a blueprint how the marriage relationship and the relationship with singles are to operate. If we don't follow the design that God has established we will be in for disappointments. There are certain things that have to be honored and acknowledged. When we go against God's design, it may work for awhile, but in the end it will come apart. Even with the wisdom of God, there will be challenges to come.

Ephesians chapter 5 gives the most detailed account on how the marriage relationship will work. Paul also taught about this in Colossians, Timothy and Titus. It will be difficult for us to understand this marriage relationship unless we understand the relationship that Christ has to the church.

***Eph 5:32 "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" KJV***

The following scriptures tell us how this relates to us and Christ, how much Christ loves us, the church; and what the response of the church should be to Christ. This is a challenge because of the society that we live in. Many times when people begin to enter into a marriage relationship, there can be many things from the past that will cause there to be problems, if these things are brought into the relationship, they must be dealt with.

Many times there are things that a woman needs to have fulfilled in her life. In a survey, it was determined that she needed a man who would be 1) kind, compassionate and thoughtful, 2)romantic and affectionate, 3) a good father and 4) a good provider.

There are different kinds of men: a handsome one will attract her, an intelligent man interests her, a humorous one amuses, an attentive one will flatter her, a generous man pleases her and an honest man surprises her. But it is the thoughtful man who ends up winning her.

***Eph 5:22-33 "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."* KJV

In this scripture, husbands are encouraged to cherish and nourish his wife; cherish means to treat nice, be kind, romantic and thoughtful. Nourish means to provide for her and meet her needs to the best of his ability and have her interest at heart.

Women like to be romanced; men don't realize the importance of being romantic or affectionate. However, a good father and provider is usually the most important part of the relationship.

Many times people enter into a marriage relationship thinking that they will be able to change the other person once they are married. Common sense will tell us that this does not work.

**Eph 5:33** *"However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects and reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]."* AMP

A man's needs are totally different from a woman's. Wives have a responsibility to meet those needs in her husband. It is necessary for the wife to show respect for her husband, don't be tearing him down with the little things but continually encourage him, regardless of what he may or may not do. He may be dealing with insecurities and needs the extra encouragement and attention that his wife can give him. A man needs to feel that he is desired and needed by his wife.

**Pr 14:1** *"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."* KJV

A woman can make or break her husband with her attitude toward him. She must constantly be a servant to him, not as a slave, but as a helper, encouraging, uplifting and caring for him, putting his needs before her own.

God has a design or plan for the singles. Fornication or sexual relationship outside of marriage is not God's design. It will satisfy for awhile, but in the end it will fall apart. When we realize that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and fornication is a sin toward our body, we can ask for and receive forgiveness.

**1 Cor 6:15-20** *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify*

*God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. KJV*

**1 Cor 6:15-20** *"Do you not see and know that your bodies are members (bodily parts) of Christ (the Messiah)? Am I therefore to take the parts of Christ and make [them] parts of a prostitute? Never! Never! 16 Or do you not know and realize that when a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? The two, it is written, shall become one flesh. 17 But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. 18 Shun immorality and all sexual looseness [flee from impurity in thought, word, or deed]. Any other sin which a man commits is one outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own, 20 You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own]. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body" AMP*

**1 Cor 6:15-20** *"15 Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! 16 And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. 18 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." NLT*

**1 Cor 6:15-20** *" God honored the Master's body by raising it from the grave. He'll treat yours with the same resurrection power. Until that time, remember that your bodies are created with the same dignity as the Master's body. You wouldn't take the Master's body off to a whorehouse, would you? I should hope not. 16-20 There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body." MESSAGE*

In a survey taken over a 10 year period of time of men and women dating, most men after a breakup with their girlfriends, even though they were the one who had talked the girls into having a sexual relationship; 2/3 of them said "that there was no trust in the relationship, if she would give herself to him, what would keep her from doing it with others?" 82% of the girls asked, said the same things about the men. They had become untrusting, insecure, possessive and jealous. The flesh is so needy and does not think ahead, only the soul and spirit does. Singles make right choices. Over the same 10 year survey with married couples, 80% of them spoke of being reasonably happy.

God's design is that sex be regulated to marriage. However, that design has been crossed ever since the beginning in Genesis and will continue until Jesus comes back for His church. Proverbs talks about the relationships that men and women have to marriage.

Many large churches refuse to speak out regarding these problems in the church, because of the fear that people will leave the churches

**1 Thess 4:3-7** *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness"* KJV

Sanctify means "set apart"; our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit. This is God's design, that sex stays within the bounds of marriage. The church is doing the same thing that is going on in the world, the same behavior as those not born again. Sexual desire does not go away just because we are born again. God designed sex and said that "this was good", a right life style.

It is hard to make spiritual progress because of spending so much time in a repentance mode. We need to grow in order to walk straight and upright in God plan for us.

**Rom 5:17** *"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"* KJV

We rule in life as kings, through the free "gift of righteousness." God is so good.