

Introduction to the Series

(Why Study “THE HOME”?)

1. The home is God’s first great institution and is so important:

A. Important to God

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

1) This union SHOULD now create and build a new home!

B. Our domestic problems begin when we depart from God’s counsel regarding the home.

1) We will look at some of these areas in future lessons.

2. The values relative to the home are changing:

A. The family is no longer a close-knit organization.

B. Other institutions have assumed the roles which were once those of the home.

1) Colleges, Professional Opportunities, Modern Educational Programs and other institutions have replaced education at the mother’s knee.

2) The spiritual and guidance of family members have for the most part been left to the church --- but who is the church?

C. Social attitudes toward marriage and the home have changed.

1) The abandonment of home responsibilities is now commonplace.

3. **The home that God designed is being undermined by man today.**
 - A. **The glamorization of unprincipled living is in the mass media, especially on TV and the movies.**
 - B. **Husbands and wives battle over sexual incompatibility, financial irresponsibility, alcoholism, and religious discord.**
 - C. **Men and Women are entering the marriage relationship without the conviction of making it last until death. As a result:**

A 2000 report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated the following:

- 1) **Divorces: 1890 (1 of 7); 1946 (1 of 3); 1998 (1 of 2)**
- 2) **Single member households: 1776 (4%); 1998 (49%)
WHY?**
 - A. ***4,000,000 divorce annually***
 - B. ***13,000,000 widows and widowers***
 - C. ***65,000,000 single member adult households***

Interesting Statistic: **By age 30 three fourths of women in the U.S. have been married and 1/2 of those cohabitated outside of marriage** according to a Center for Disease Control and Prevention report of 2004.

THE HOME

Marriage and the Home

The Home....What it Is

1. **Distinction between Home and Marriage.**
(NOTE: Marriage in and of itself does not make a home)
 - A. All have a home; married, single, father, mother, child, grandparent, etc. ("Jill, please go home" - meaning go where you live).
2. **Definitions of home are as varied as there are persons giving them. Examples;**
 - 1) **Boy's definition:** *"It is where I eat".*
 - 2) **Teenage Girl's definition:** *"It is where I go between midnight and daybreak, when everything else is closed".*
 - 3) **A Man's definition:** *"Where we fight our private battles."*
 - 4) **A Woman's definition:** *"Where I slave the hardest, and am appreciated the least."*
 - 5) **Other definitions:** *"Where a world of strife is shut out and a world of love is shut in". "Where we complain most and have our greatest blessings".*
3. **Home may be a dream or a nightmare, a haven of rest, or a whirlpool of dissatisfaction, an inspiration or an agitation, where children may DO or where they must DON'T, a center of cheer or a dumping place for grouches, a place to flee to or a place to flee from.**
 - A. **But any home, high or humble, is what YOU and I make of it!**

Home Is of Interest to Everybody

- 1. All must live somewhere and home is where you live.**
 - A. We live best in well ordered homes with families. Homes that give us security and courage to face the world. We should have pride and gain self respect in our home.**
- 2. The home should give us a sense of responsibility for others and it should curb our selfishness.**
- 3. When managed correctly - it is a GREAT institution!**
- 4. The home is where we share our deepest joys and the dearest of human ties. Our home should be a place where we discover our purest love, enjoy peace of mind and gain comfortable rest for our body.**
- 5. What elevates the home, elevates the lives of people; what lowers the home, lowers the lives of people.**
- 6. The first home was established in the garden of Eden when God created Adam and Eve.**

Modern Living and the Marriage and Home

- 1. Our way of life may not be very conducive to a good home life.**
 - A. Many places of entertainment and interests outside the home.**
 - (1) Modern transportation has made it easier to be gone.**
 - (2) Home is no longer the center of family interests.**
 - B. Most recreation is sought outside the home today.**
 - (1) Many don't consider the home a place to play anymore.**
 - (2) Most only sleep there; they go out to movies, parks, places of amusement, and eat elsewhere (fast food, etc).**

2. **Irregular hours discourage making the home a place to live and play, relax and enjoy.**
 - A. **Dad and Mom both work and they work at different times making it hard for the children to play.**
 - B.. **Very seldom can the family sit down and enjoy a meal together.**
 - C **Children spend their time in bed, at school, in a nursery, at the park, at the movies, or hanging around with worldly friends.**
3. **Home is often little more than a filling station for humans.**

Marriage

1. **There is an urgent need to study the husband - wife relationship.**
2. **There is strong evidence that some Christians do not understand or do not apply Biblical principles in this relationship.**
3. **Christians should and must realize that the marriage relationship was established by God:**
 - A.. **The Genesis account of creation needs to be carefully studied.**

*Genesis 1:26 "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in **His own image**; in the **image of God** He created him; male and female He created them.*

- B. **God made man and woman with sexual desires. The need for human companionship is revealed.**
Genesis 2:18-25

- (1) **One note here:** God did not create another man for Adam. He created a woman to walk beside Adam. God clearly condemns those who practice homosexuality and any sexual immorality:
Romans 1:24-28, 32

1 Corinthians 6:9 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites....."

- 2) **We must realize and practice God's way - not man's way!**

**C. Christ makes reference to Genesis 2:24 in Matthew 19:3-9.
Matthew 19:3-9**

- 1) **We will be talking more on Matthew 19 in a later lesson. This portion is to emphasize the importance of the marriage relationship and the home.**

D. Paul emphasizes the same passage of scripture in Eph 5:31.

*Ephesians 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two **shall become one flesh.**"*

- 1) **We can see Paul's argument in 1 Cor 6:15-20.
1 Corinthians 6:15-20**
 - a) **Let us understand that marriage is from God and it is meant to be forever. Enter into it with this understanding!**

E. Christ described the permanency of this union.

Matthew 19:6 So then, they are no longer two but **one flesh**. Therefore what **God has joined together**, let not man separate."

Genesis 2:22-23 Then **the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman**, and He brought her to the man. 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."

A. The Hebrew writer states:

Hebrews 13:4 **Marriage is honorable among all**, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- 1) **It takes three to make a marriage sanctioned by God: Man, Woman, and GOD.**

F. Marriage is more than the union of two bodies - it is the union of two minds, wills, beings, hearts. It involves a total commitment for life to another human being.

- 1) **This commitment to another human being is not found in pre-marital or extra-marital sex.**

- (a) **Unmarried couples living together are not totally committed to each other for life. They never made that promise to each other in the presence of God and witnesses. They are living in fornication!**

- 2) **Ensure your mate will help you through life.**

SEE QUESTIONS

4. **The Genesis account of the creation and the fall of man is the basis of our understanding of the roles of man and woman in the marriage relationship.**

NOTE: Before a man and woman can do what God expects, they must first discover what their God given roles are in the home and family.

- A. Look at two important factors of Gen 3:16; "desire" and "rule".

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your **desire shall be for your husband**, And **he shall rule over you**."

- B. The fact that man was created first and that woman was deceived are argued by Paul to show woman's place in subjection to man.

1 Timothy 2:11-15

- C. The husband is the head of the wife - The Bible says so.
CHART

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is **head of the wife**, as also **Christ is head of the church**; and He is the Savior of the body.

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the **head of every man is Christ**, the **head of woman is man**, and the **head of Christ is God**.

- D. Men, this gives us nothing to boast in. Because the scriptures also teach:

1 Corinthians 11:11-12 Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; **but all things are from God**.

- E. Longfellow, in his "Hiawatha" has beautifully expressed the mutuality of the marriage relationship:

"As unto the bow the cord is, So unto the man is woman; Though she bends him she obeys him, Useless each without the other."

Conclusion:

- 1. If the marriage relationship between man and woman is being handled the way God meant for it to be, each fulfilling their duty to the other, then:
 - a. The Marriage would be a happy one.**
 - b. The Home would be managed as it should be.**
 - c. The children would know that Home is truly "Home sweet Home".****

Next Week: SOME CAUSES FOR MARRIAGE FAILURE

Invitation

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