

Overcoming Some Of Life's Problems # 4

Problems In Marriage

Introduction:

1. No problem man has - pulls at his heart like family problems.
 - a. May begin with marriage problems.
 - b. May result in problems with children.
2. Marriages sometimes have problems
 - a. It does not have to be to the point of divorce to be a problem.
 - b. It does not have to be major to be a problem.
 - c. The problem might be temporary or one that last for years.
3. Marriage problems have solutions
 - a. Any passage talks about what marriage should be implies there is a solution.
 - b. If not, no one could be blamed for the problems.
 - c. If both parties try, problems could be fixed they can have a great marriage.
4. Solutions must be sought
 - a. If not, the problem gets worse. It gets bigger and out of hand.
 - b. It hinders our whole service to God (1 Pet. 3:7; cf. Jas. 2:10).
5. We can better understand why there are problems and what the solutions are when we see who is involved in the marriage.
 - a. Marriage involves three beings: man, woman and God.
 - b. Mal. 2:14; Rom. 7:2-3.

I. Marriage Involves Two People - *There Will Be Problems*

- A. *Different families - potential for parental interference.*
 1. The parents of each may want to continue to have influence in the marriage and decisions the couple make.
 - a. Easy for parents to put pressure on.
 - b. The child of the parent that interferes is torn between loyalty to the

- parent and loyalty to his/her mate.
 - c. The in-law may build resentment.
- 2. Must not allow parents to run or ruin the marriage.
 - a. Matt. 19:4-6 - should leave father and mother. Apron strings must be cut.
 - b. This marriage constitutes a new home - a new family. The husband (though not as old and mature as his or her parents) is the head of this family (Eph. 5:23-28). God said so.
 - c. May come a time that interfering parents must be told.

B. *Different minds - potential for communication problems*

- 1. Marriages fail from a lack of communication
 - a. Examples:
 - (1) Don't bond or get to know one another.
 - (2) Live separate lives.
 - (3) Fuss, nag, and pout rather than discuss.
 - (4) Refuse to talk about sensitive subjects.
 - b. Any successful relationship demands communication.
- 2. When we learn to effectively communicate:
 - a. Prevents misunderstandings.
 - b. Discuss and resolve differences.
 - c. Agree before we act.
 - d. Grow closer together.

C. *Different religions - potential for religious conflict.*

- 1. Marriage to a non-Christian, erring Christian or weak Christian can cause problems.
 - a. The one you are closest to (Matt. 19:4-6 - one) doesn't share with you the most important thing in your life (service to God).
 - b. Causes you concern for his / her soul and how he / she could be reached (1 Pet. 3:1-6). Efforts to convert your mate may be met with resentment.
 - c. How to raise the children becomes an issue.
 - (1) Will we spank (Prov. 22:15)?
 - (2) Will we forbid immodesty, dancing, indecent movies, etc.?
 - (3) Will we make them go to church?
 - (4) What will we teach them? The truth or denominational doctrine?
 - d. When differences arise there is no true respect for a common standard

- the Bible.

- e. The non-Christian may weaken you spiritually (Deut. 7:3-4; Neh. 13:26-27). May even try to hinder your service to God.

2. How do you avoid such a conflict?

- a. Marry a person who fears God (Neh. 7:2). That's more than one who is a member of "Church of Christ" and goes to church all the time!
- b. You determine that you will be faithful no matter what (1 Pet. 3:6).
- c. Let your example be strong and don't nag, fuss and continually argue (1 Pet. 3:1-6).

D. *Different sexes (male & female) - potential for sexual conflict*

- 1. Sexual conflict may come in various forms:
 - a. A mate that is unfaithful - commits adultery (Matt. 19:9).
 - b. A mate that is unwilling - not render conjugal rights (1 Cor. 7:3-4). Each may think the other is unreasonable about the matter.
 - c. A mate that is inconsiderate or unloving.
- 2. How to avoid or resolve that conflict:
 - a. Sexual relations are for those who are rightfully married to each other (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:2).
 - b. When that is not honored, the innocent mate can put his mate away for fornication (Matt. 19:9).
 - c. Husbands and wives should be understanding and considerate of the other's feelings and desires (cf. 1 Pet. 3:7; Matt. 7:12; Phil. 2:4; Eph. 5:33; Titus 2:5). Some communication will help.

E. *Different Roles - potential conflict in leadership & submission*

- 1. Husband and wife have different roles.
 - a. Husband - head (Eph. 5:23-28). That means he is to lead.
 - b. To the wife is to submit (Eph. 5; Titus 2:5).
- 2. Problems occur in the roles.
 - a. Husband will not lead.
 - b. Husband that is domineering.
 - c. Wife will not submit.
- 3. Both must be willing to follow God's plan.

F. *Different views of money - potential money problems.*

- 1. Conflict over money is among the top causes for divorce.

- a. Both may spend more than they make.
 - b. One may be selfish in the spending.
 - c. One may be a spender - other wants to be conservative and save.
 - d. The pressures of debt, bill collectors and the way the other mate spends (or lack of planning) may cause fighting.
2. The Bible warns of money problems.
- a. Debt makes you a slave (Prov. 22:17).
 - b. Pay your debts - live within your means (Rom. 13:8).

II. Marriage Involves God - *There Are Answers*

A. *Make a commitment*

- 1. To God - Prov. 2:17
 - a. Our faithfulness to God is why we:
 - (1) Treat mates as we should.
 - (2) Fulfill our roles (1 Pet. 3:1-7).
 - (3) Work our problems out.
 - (4) Seek to please our mates.
 - b. Let God define our roles in the home
 - (1) God decides who will be "head".
 - (2) God decides who will submit.
 - (3) God decides who should keep house.
 - (4) God decides who should make living.
- 2. To Mate - "Cleave" (Matt. 19:4-5) - "To join fast together, to glue, cement, is primarily said of metals and other materials (from *kolla*, glue)" (*Vines*, p. 196).
 - a. Stay together.
 - b. Make mate happy.
 - c. Give self to your mate.
 - d. View your marriage as "one". Matthew Henry said, "A man's children are pieces of himself. A man's wife is himself."

B. *Deny Self* (Mark 8:34).

- 1. What is self-denial? (cf. Previous lesson # 3 on Self).
- 2. How does it relate to marriage?
 - a. Say no to self.
 - b. Interest in mate and what he/she wants

- c. Yield to will of God.
- d. Make self do what know need to do.
- e. Can't think of a marriage problem that is not a lack of self denial!

C. *Communicate*

- 1. The Bible implies a need for communication
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:7
 - b. Matt. 19:4-6 - one flesh
- 2. Essentials to communication:
 - a. Listen (Jas. 1:19).
 - b. Talk:
 - (1) So as not to be misunderstood . Clarify. May find that differences are nothing more than a misunderstanding.
 - (2) Never clam up or avoid subjects.
 - (3) Talk it through.
 - (4) Let your thoughts be known.
 - c. Be calm (Prov. 29:22; 25:28; Eph. 4:26).
 - d. Be kind (Col. 4:6).
 - e. Be Fair - no unjustified conclusions or accusations.

Conclusion:

- 1. If you are married, there will be some problems along the way.
- 2. If you remember God in involved, you always know there are answers.

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