

206 - Marriage

I. Introduction

A. Importance of Marriage

1. First _____ Ordained by God
2. _____ of our Society
3. The Only Acceptable Means of _____

B. Difficulties of Marriage

1. Trouble Will Come (I Cor. 7:28)
2. Closeness Creates _____
3. Most Common Issues in Marriages Leading to Divorce:
 4. What is the real problem?

C. Statistics of Marriage *

1. Opinion
 - a. 70 % of Americans think the traditional family structure is always best.
 - b. 83 % of Americans agree that “it is better for a child to be born into a two-parent family than to a single mother.
 - c. “The two-parent family is vital to the stability and well-being of children, adults and society as a whole.”¹
2. Actual Statistics –
 - a. The total number of marriages recorded was 2,230,000.
 - b. The divorce rate was down to 3.6 (per 1,000) (as of 2005).
 - The wife was awarded custody of the children 72 percent of the time
 - Joint custody was awarded in 16 percent of divorces.

¹ Glenn T. Stanton. *Twice as Strong*. Focus on The Family Report. January, 1995.

- Husbands were awarded custody in 9 percent of divorces (as of 1990).
- c. Percentage of married people who reach their 5th, 10th, 15th, 25th, 35th, and 50th anniversaries anniversaries:
 - 5th: 82%
 - 10th: 65%
 - 15th: 52%
 - 25th: 33%
 - 35th: 20%
 - 50th: 5%
- d. The median duration of marriage for divorcing couples was 7.8 years (as of 2005).

II. Model of Marriage

A. God's Purpose

B. God's Plan for _____

1. Headship
 - a. What Does "Headship" Mean?
 - b. Effect of false _____ regarding headship
2. _____ of the head
3. _____ Husbands
4. How to _____ passivity

C. God's Plan for _____

1. Submit
2. Respect

D. Holy _____

1. "Into me see"
2. Intimate _____
3. Intimate _____

III. Mentoring Married Couples

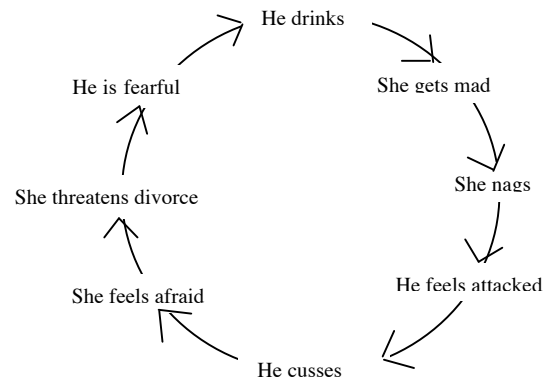
A. The _____ Problem

1. Most people come for help to either _____ their spouse.
2. What obstacle does that present to the mentor?

B. The _____ Problem

1. How can the mentor respond?

2. Ask:

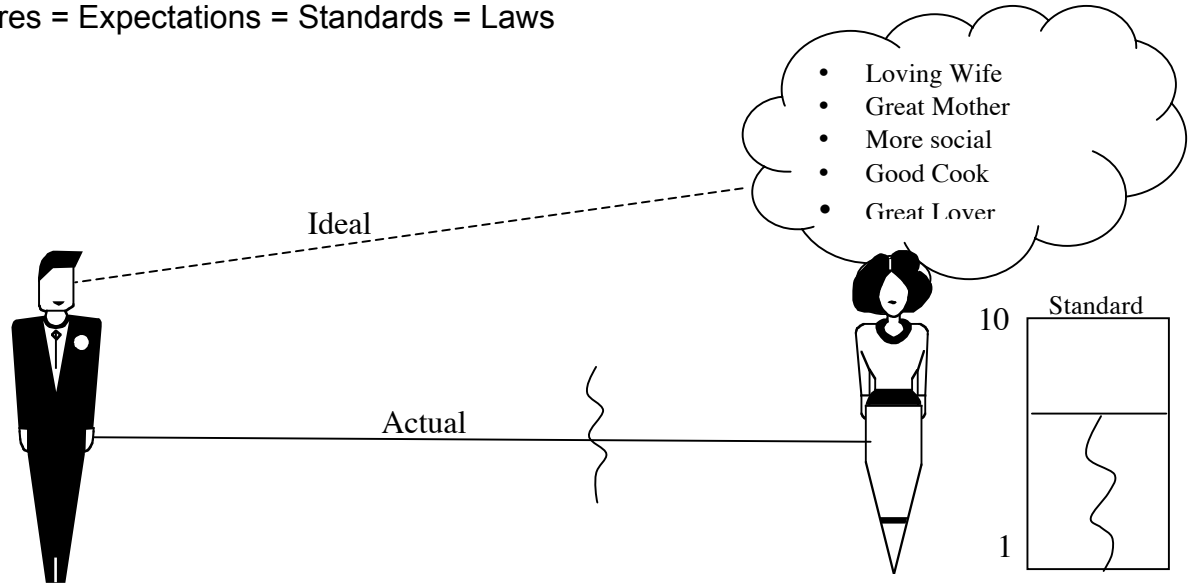


IV. Conflict Management

A. The Real _____ of Conflict (James 4:1-4)

1. _____ Seeking
2. _____ Reactions
3. _____ Expectations

- Desires = Expectations = Standards = Laws



B. Results of _____ lifestyle

1. Rom 4:15
2. Rom 5:20
3. Rom 7:5
4. Rom 7:10
5. James 2:10
6. Gal. 3:10
7. I Cor. 15:56

C. What to do with _____

1. _____ about them
2. Discuss them _____
3. Surrender _____ for spouse to ever meet them
4. Choose to _____ your spouse without strings

V. Forgiveness

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Eph. 4:32

A. Forgiveness is not necessarily _____

B. _____ in Forgiveness

- 1. What if this person hurts me again?
- 2. What if the person never changes?
- 3. What if I forgive and my feelings don't change?

C. Forgiveness Assignment

- Discuss with your spouse the issues causing conflicts in your marriage. Make a special note of your role in the conflict.
- Using the grid below, make a list of all of the circumstances or events where you have been an offense to your spouse, have hurt them, or sinned against them.
- Next to each event, note the messages or emotions they might have perceived about your actions or attitudes relating to their identity or self-image.

Event	How They Might Have Felt

The Apology/Forgiveness Process

1. Sitting with your spouse and holding hands, **follow these twelve words with your own actual words:**

- “I was wrong” (Acknowledge the event or circumstance)
- “I am sorry” (Acknowledge the perceived hurt or damage to identity)
- “Please forgive me” (Ask for sincere forgiveness)
- “I love you” (Reaffirm your commitment to your spouse)

2. The spouse now forgives

- "I forgive you, _____." "The debt is canceled - paid in full - satisfied by Christ at the cross and you owe me nothing further."

(Avoid saying "I want to . . . I would like to, etc.)

- "Being in Christ, I am willing to risk that I may be hurt by you again."

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. . . for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. Jer. 31:33,34

Counterfeit to Spiritual Roles

A. Male Roles

Function	Spiritual Man	Carnal Man	
	Head	Dictator (Dominating)	Doormat (Passive)
Leadership	Do as I do	Do as I say, not as I do	Do something I can't
Loves	Loves Christ, himself, family , and others.	Loves himself first	Hates himself
Develop and Nurture	Cultivates the gifts of the family	Exalts his own gifts; Puts down others	Denies his gift
Teacher	Knows the Word and teaches by example	"Preaches" the Word, but lives poor example	Remains ignorant of the Word
Provider	Manages wisely; consistent with financial plan	Saves and spends only on his own terms	Poor provider depends on wife or others to meet family needs
Protector	Sets limits on basis of family spiritual welfare	Sets limits on basis of personal convenience	Refuses to set limits; waits for others to meet family needs

B. Female Roles

Function	Godly Woman	Carnal Woman	
	Help-Mate	Dictator (Dominating)	Doormat (Passive)
Leadership	Supports and assists husband in his role	Usurps authority from husband	Refuses responsibility; acts only on "orders"
Loves	Loves Christ, herself, family, and others.	Loves herself first	Hates herself and fears others
Develop and Nurture	Cultivates the gifts of the family	Emphasizes her own talent	Denies all abilities in self and envies others
Teacher	Knows the Word and teaches by example	"Preaches" the Word, but lives poor example	Remains ignorant of the Word
Provider	Manages wisely; consistent with financial plan	Serves family, saves, and spends on her own terms	Serves family on their demand; leaves money management to husband
Protector	Supports and assists in setting limits	Sets limits on basis of personal convenience and private opinion	Refuses to set limits; waits for others to meet family needs

V. Conclusion

A. God's Original Creation

1. To Reflect the _____
2. To Express His _____
3. To Attract Others to _____

B. The Curse (C.U.R.S.E.)

- C - _____
U - _____
R - _____
S - _____
E - _____

C. Graceful Living

1. _____ to God
2. _____ Relationships
3. Life _____

Bibliography

Marriage and Family Issues

Van Vonderan, Jeff. *Families Where Grace is in Place*. Bethany House: Minneapolis. 1992.

Sexual Issues

LaHaye, Tim & Beverley. *The Act of Marriage*.

Wheat, Dr. Ed. *Love Life for Every Married Couple*

Wheat, Ed, M.D. And Gayle Wheat. *Intended for Pleasure*. Revell:Grand Rapids 1997.

Communication Issues

Augsberger, David. *Caring Enough to Confront* Regal Books: Ventura, Calif. 1973.

Backus, William. *Telling Each Other the Truth*. Bethany:Minneapolis. 2000

Chapman, Gary, *The Five Love Languages*. Northfield Publishing:Chicago. 1992

—