

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Cultivate a Marriage

SERMON REFERENCE: Ephesians 5:23-33

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1954

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Ephesians 5:23
- b) We cannot function in any area, either in the church or out of the church, if we do not believe in authority or understand authority.
- c) Authority is everywhere.
 - i) It's in our common, ordinary laws that God has put into society.
 - (1) For example, it's in our traffic laws.
- d) God wants to give us Kingdom authority.
 - i) God did not make us to be slaves to the world, the flesh and the devil.
 - ii) But there is a great principle that God does not give authority to those with a rebellious spirit.
 - (1) We can never be over those things that God wants to be under us until we get under those things that God has put over us.
 - (a) This is the basic key principle in Kingdom authority.
- e) The problem in America today is in the family.
 - i) The problem is primarily with the husband.
 - ii) We have not understood responsibilities and Kingdom authority in the home.
 - (1) Husbands and fathers need to see their responsibilities, not their rights.
 - (a) When the Bible speaks of the husband being the head of the home, it is not speaking of his rights; it's speaking of his responsibilities.
- f) Marriage is a covenant, not a contract.
 - i) If we think of marriage as a contract, then we'll be looking for loopholes and ways to break the contract.
 - ii) Marriage is a covenant between a man, a woman and God.
- g) There are three major responsibilities that deal with headship in the home.
 - i) If husbands do not exercise the Kingdom authority that God has given them, then their home will not be a wonderful home and their marriage will not be a magnificent marriage.
 - ii) If wives do not understand their God-assigned responsibilities in the home, then they will miss an incredible blessing.
- h) Today's message will focus on the husband's three major responsibilities.

2) SERVANT LEADERSHIP (EPHESIANS 5:23)

- a) The words "servant leadership" are not exclusive; they go together.
- b) Ephesians 5:23
 - i) When the Bible says that the husband is the head of the home, it does not mean that he is the dictator.
- c) Jesus Christ is the head of the church.
 - i) The husband is to be the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.
 - (1) Jesus is the sovereign Lord of the church.
 - (2) Jesus Christ never forces us to do anything.

- (3) He is not the dictator of the church but the head of the church.
 - (a) The husband is not a dictator but the head.
- d) Headship means to have responsibility.
 - i) The wife, who is to be submissive to her husband, has every right to look to her husband to meet her every need as a wife in the home.
 - (1) This doesn't mean that the wife is to bow to her husband.
 - (2) It means that the husband is responsible to meet her needs just as the Lord Jesus Christ is responsible to meet the needs of the church.
 - ii) Headship is not a chain of command but a line of responsibility.
- e) 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - i) God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are coequal and coeternal.
 - ii) Philippians 2:6
 - (1) Just as husbands and wives are equal, God the Father and God the Son are equal.
 - iii) The Bible says that the head of Christ is God.
 - (1) This does not mean boss or dictator.
 - (a) There's no need for dictatorship among equals.
 - (2) The Lord Jesus is at the right hand of the Father on the throne, and so it is in the home.
 - iv) The submission of the Lord Jesus to the Father is not one that comes out of fear or dominion, but it is based in love because of love.
- f) Luke 22:25-26
 - i) This passage is key to Kingdom authority and to those who want authority.
 - ii) If you want to be chief, then learn to be a servant.
- g) The Lord Jesus was a leader who served.
 - i) John 13:13-15
 - ii) Jesus, our Lord and Master, set the example for us.
- h) A home needs a head.
 - i) Anything with no head is dead, and anything with two heads is a freak.
 - ii) God has put headship in the home, and that is the husband's responsibility.
 - (1) This does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband.
 - (2) In Christ, we are equal.
 - (a) Galatians 3:28
 - (b) Equality does not mean sameness.
 - (i) Genesis 1:27
 - (ii) God made us different that He might make us one.
 - (iii) The devil, under the guise of making us equal, has tried to make us the same.
 - (3) The wife may be superior to her husband in many things.
 - i) In the home, the responsibility is on the husband.
 - i) He cannot dodge it.

- ii) The major problem in America today is slacker husbands who are not doing what God has called them to do.
 - j) No man can be the head of his home until he is under the headship of Christ.
 - i) If he is not willing to be under, then what right or expectation does he have to have the anointing and the power of God to be the husband that God wants him to be?
- 3) SACRIFICIAL LOVE (EPHESIANS 5:25)
- a) Ephesians 5:25
 - i) Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and He died for the church.
 - b) Sacrificial love is passionate love.
 - i) This does not mean sexual passion, though that is part of married love, but this is emotion and commitment that comes from the deepest part of your being.
 - ii) This means that apart from his relationship with God, there is nothing too precious for a husband to give up for his wife.
 - iii) A husband owes his wife passionate love.
 - c) Sacrificial love is purifying love.
 - i) Ephesians 5:26-27
 - ii) Just as Jesus Christ is pastor, priest and prophet to the church, the husband is to be prophet, priest and pastor to his wife.
 - (1) He is to intercede for her, to teach her, to lead her and to protect her spiritually.
 - (2) 1 Corinthians 14:35
 - (a) This does not mean that a woman cannot utter a word, sing or pray in church.
 - (b) The author is saying that God has put male authority in the church and in the home.
 - (c) It means that a husband is to say with Joshua of old, "For me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
 - (i) Joshua 24:15
 - (d) God wants to work on the husband; and when a wife goes to someone else for answers or tries to give him the answers, she might hinder what God is trying to do.
 - iii) A husband's assignment from God is to make his wife a more radiantly beautiful Christian, just as Jesus is purifying the church.
 - d) Sacrificial love is protecting love.
 - i) Ephesians 5:28
 - (1) A man is sick who does not care for his own body.
 - (2) A home is sick when the husband does not protect his wife.
 - ii) 1 Peter 3:7
 - (1) This does not mean that the wife is inferior.
 - (a) Gold is weaker than steel, but it is not inferior.

- (b) Silk is weaker than denim, but it is not inferior.
 - (i) Silk is more refined, more fragile, more intrinsically beautiful.
 - iii) God made the woman as the weaker vessel, and the husband needs to protect his wife.
 - (1) Not only to protect her physically, but also to protect her emotionally and spiritually.
 - (a) Satan cannot get at the family unless he comes through the husband.
 - (i) The husband is the door keeper.
 - (ii) Genesis 2:15
 - 1. God made the man to keep the garden, which means to protect it.
 - (b) A thief cannot rob a strong man's house except he first binds the strong man.
 - iv) As a husband assumes his responsibility, he must understand that he has to be under the Lord Jesus, who is going to assume His responsibility to take care of you.
 - e) Sacrificial love is providing love.
 - i) Ephesians 5:29
 - (1) The husband wants to provide for his wife's emotional, physical and spiritual needs.
 - (2) A husband is to love his wife as he loves his own body because she is part of him.
 - (a) A husband who does not meet his wife's needs is committing spiritual and matrimonial suicide.
 - ii) A husband is to provide for his wife's emotional needs:
 - (1) He should constantly praise her and admire her.
 - (2) It is a husband's responsibility to give his wife appreciation and a thank you.
 - (3) A husband should praise his wife for more than her physical beauty.
 - (a) Thank her for her patience.
 - (b) Thank her for her prayer life.
 - (c) Thank her for the ways she makes your home beautiful.
 - (4) Encourage your wife.
 - iii) A husband is to meet his wife's spiritual needs.
- 4) STEADFAST LOYALTY (EPHESIANS 5:30-33)
 - a) Ephesians 5:30
 - i) This passage is talking about the church in Christ.
 - (1) Just as the church is taken out of the wounded side of Christ, woman was taken out of the wounded side of man.
 - b) Ephesians 5:31-33
 - i) "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife."

- c) The husband is to be the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church.
 - i) The Lord Jesus will never walk out on the church.
 - (1) Hebrews 13:5
 - ii) There are men today who make a holy vow (a covenant, not a contract), and then walk out.
 - (1) Many say that they owe it to themselves to be happy.
 - (a) In reality, they owe it to God to keep their promise.
 - (b) They owe it to their wife and children.
- d) When a husband gets under the authority that is over him, then he can have the authority that God has put under him.
 - i) A wife can submit to a man who is willing to die for her and shows it by the way he lives for her.
 - (1) And homes will be what God intended for them to be.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Ephesians 5 and 6 come in the context that tells us to be filled with the Spirit.
 - i) The only way that you can be this kind of a husband as outlined in Scripture is to be filled with the Spirit.
 - ii) When you give your heart to Jesus Christ and surrender to Him, the Holy Spirit of God will come into you and will give you the Spirit of Jesus so that you can love like Jesus.
 - (1) You must first give your heart to Jesus so that you can give your home to Jesus.
- b) Jesus wants to come into your heart today.
- c) Pray to Him now and ask Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16