

Family Life Study Outline

Blessings

When we talk of marriage, we refer to the blessings God give through it.

- There is companionship. When God gave Eve to Adam He referred to a helper who was fit and suitable for the man. Gen. 2:21-24
- Children are obvious blessings from marriage. Ps. 127-128 points this out in a number of ways.
- There is naturally happiness to home life as the family enjoys God's blessings to them and they share with one another.
- There is also a protection of ones chastity with marriage given each partner the proper God-pleasing outlet for the sexual desires.

Fidelity

This is an old-fashioned word, as old as God's establishment of marriage and the family.

1. Fidelity in marriage means monogamy. The love that Christ bequeathed to us is an “existence-for-the-other-person” reality. 1 Cor. 7:2-4
2. Fidelity in marriage means a lifelong pledge of love and loyalty. Rom. 7:2, Mt. 19:6 Disagreements, troubles and the like need not break up a marriage, but rather through proper approach of them strengthen a marriage. When conflict arises, why try any longer for a resolution or solution? That is the attitude of cowards. The stakes are high and the rewards are great.
3. Fidelity in marriage means mutual subordination to what God wants out of reverence to Christ. Eph. 5:21-23 There is no egalitarian marriage. Under “one flesh” there should be no lording it over and no headstrong rebellion. Doing things in concert means mutuality.
4. Fidelity in marriage means sexual restraint outside of the marital covenant. Adultery is not acceptable in any form for those who follow Christ. Where do we find this in Scripture?
5. Fidelity in marriage means an intimacy under “one flesh.” 1 Cor. 7:3-4 Marriage is for children, intimacy, companionship and joy of home life. “To know” is intimate in a multitude of ways and deeper than just the physical. In connection with the Song of Solomon, think “Banish play and laughter from the bed of love and you may let in a false goddess.” What do you think of that? (C.S.Lewis)

Success – How do you measure it?

Here are some things to talk about.

- Warmth of personality and affection.
- Thoughtfulness and supportiveness, doing more even than asked.
- Interests and ideas in common.
- A willingness to communicate and cooperate.
- A desire and love of children.
- An interest and participation in the church.
- Ambition to improve the financial and cultural level of the family.
- Tolerance, understanding, and the ability to compromise when necessary and to remain firm when necessary, to arrive at decisions which are in the best interest of all concerned in the family.

Nurture and Admonition

Eph. 6:4 – paideia(nurture) – It meant in the old Greek, education. But since foolishness is bound in the heart of a child and of a man, yet it is the rod of correction which can drive it far from him. Prov. 22:15

In the NT usage there was the sense that all effectual instruction for the sinful children of men includes and implies chastening, or as we are accustomed to say, correction. Discipline might be a better translation. All the laws and ordinances of a Christian household are included and the transgression of them brings correction.

Nouthesia(admonition) – It is the milder of the two terms. Its distinctive feature is training by word of mouth. This also can be earnest and severe.

In training there should be an honest assessment.

As in the churches of Asia Minor. Rev. 2:2-3 I know your works...repent also 2:19...latter works exceed the first, 3:10 because you have kept...I will.

When we take stock with a child we recognize the variety of gifts.

As in the church, so in the home. And consider the good for the whole 1 Cor. 12:15-16. As with spiritual gifts so with all it is for the common good. 1 Cor. 12:4-7

Well Done

Mt. 25:21

Compliments, Note their Content

Phil. 2:29-30, Eph. 6:21, Rom. 16:4-7, 10-13

Give recognition to 1 Cor. 16:18

Commend to God in Prayer

Eph. 1:15-16

Teach the Children their Exalted Position in Christ

Eph. 1:3-6

In Conversion and Since Conversion

Phil. 2:4-8 See others ahead of yourself, following the example of Christ, humility. God works within, His Spirit with our spirit.

Law and Gospel

Are you putting salt in the wound or salve?

Do you demean or disclose?

How do you get results?

How do you use reward, to induce good behavior or to reinforce good behavior?