

3. Aged women are to teach: Tit. 2:4,5.

a. Sobriety--Prudent; sound minded; above reproach; self-controlled.

b. To love their husbands. More women need to be taught this.

c. To love their children.

(1) Under Jewish law a woman felt ashamed and disgraced if she could not have children. (Hannah, Sarah)

(2) Today many men and women need to be taught to have children and then love them.

d. To be discreet. Sound and wise in judgment.

e. Chaste. Pure from carnality; modest. (One of the greatest needs of our society since immorality abounds on every hand. If the church doesn't set a standard here, where is the stopping point.)

f. Keepers at Home.

(1) Does God give any non-essential commands? No! This not a popular command to obey today. It is more popular to teach young women how to be a good business woman than a mother.

(2) Today there are about 22,500,000 women working. By 1970 it is estimated that there will be 30,000,000. In 1960 of the additional 5,800,000 additional working women, 4,700,000 were wives. (Courier Journal, Aug. 1, 1960; Jackson Sun, Dec. 27, 1962)

(3) If you are now working at public work, and circumstances do not demand it, then think about these things:

(a) What does Titus 2:5 mean?

(b) It causes women to neglect the Lord's work. Woman at Middleton began public work and had to give up some things. She gave up her class. Some of you are doing the same thing.

(c) It causes women to neglect their home and children.

---You come home tired and irritable. Isn't it enough that children have to face such a father?

---You force yourself to do many home duties. Life becomes monotonous. Your husband shows less interest, etc.

---Unable to be with your children and exercise proper discipline and they become hard to manage.

(d) Causes many women to have less respect for their husbands. Here's why:

---More independent. This was found to be one of the leading causes of so many divorces in Germany following World War II.

---Because others see you at your best all the time, compliment you, your husband fails to do so and tension arises.

(e) Working mothers are a contributing factor to Juvenile Delinquency

---Judge Kermit V. Rooke, Richmond Times Dispatch, Jan. 2, 1960:

Working mothers one of the leading factors in delinquency.

---Judge Sam Tatum: "As I try children who come before me for violating the law, I find that ninety per cent* of these children are from what is known as the broken homes. The father and mother separated; father and mother divorced; or father and mother both working; or father gone yonder some where leaving the responsibility of the family on the mother." (The Home, p. 82)

---J. Edgar Hoover has come out with like statements.

(f) In many cases it costs a woman to work. (Fill out this list and see what you make) Clothes, transportation, Child care, household help, extra office expenses (showers, parties) meals out, higher shopping costs, other. Of course money is not the real reason many women work, but rather to get away from their family and home responsibilities.

(g) It gives the opponent an occasion to blaspheme. Cf. David. 2 Sam. 12:14; Tit. 2:5.

g. Good. Beneficial; Morally clean.

"HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER"

Exodus 20:12

Introduction.

1. Read or quote the text.
2. In 1956, Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz, of Brooklyn's highest criminal court, who had spent 21 years as a criminal lawyer, 16 years in the criminal courts, made a trip to Italy. His purpose was to find out why Italy, of the Western countries, had the lowest juvenile delinquency rate. After weeks of traveling from city to city he came away convinced that the real reason is that "The young people in Italy respect authority." One high school principle in Milan told him "the child who respects his father and mother, too, will respect his teacher, the laws of his country, the policeman, the elders around him, etc."
3. "The obligation of filial respect, love, and reverence is so instinctively felt by all, that the duty has naturally found a place in every moral code." (Pulpit Com., Vol. I, p. 133)
 - a. An ancient Egyptian author, Ptahhotep said "the duty of filial piety is strictly inculcated."
 - b. Confucius, in China, founded his whole moral system upon the principle of parental authority.
 - c. The main foundation of the political edifice in Rome was built on the principle of parental authority.
4. In this study let's consider:

Discussion.

I. WHAT DOES HONOR AND OBEY MEAN?

- A. Wilson defines honor "... to regard, treat, or practically declare as worthy of honour."
- B. Morgan defines honor "to attach weight to; to put in the place of superiority; to hold in high opinion; to reverence, in the best sense of the word." (The Ten Commandments, p. 55)
- C. "Esteem due or paid to worth; manifestation of respect; hence, fame; credit; good name." (Webster)
- D. The word honor involves:
 1. Reverence or respect. Lev. 19:32.
 2. The following of advice. Prov. 1:8; 23:22
 3. Obedience. Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20
 4. Support when needed..
 - a. Jesus told the Pharisees they failed to honor their parents when they withheld their support. Matt. 15:1-6
 - b. The barbarians on the isle of Melita "honored" Paul and his company with many "honors". Acts 28:10
 - c. The church is to "honor widows that are widows indeed". 1 Tim. 5:3
- E. It has at least a threefold application then:
 1. It has application to the parents to train their children to obey and honor them. Eph. 6:4 "Let there be a return on the part of parents to the high ideals of their own holy position, and there will assuredly be a return on the part of children to the pathway of obedience to the command to honor father and mother." (G. Campbell Morgan)
 2. It has application to the period of childhood which involves obedience. "At first the baby must be carried. Later, it learns to walk, holding its mother's hand; still later, it learns to walk alone. Up to about ten the child thinks its parents know everything. At about sixteen the child is not so sure about its parents. At nineteen the child feels it has surpassed the parents in knowledge and at twenty-two he completely outgrows the parent. But at thirty we remember that our parents were right about a lot of things, and at forty we decide they were just about perfect." (Charles L. Allen, God's Psychiatry, p. 59) Eph. 6:1.
 3. It has application to the period of adult life.
 - a. The duty to honor parents does not cease with childhood.

- b. Jesus' words in Matt. 15:5,6 were not addressed to children, but adults.
- c. "This commandment was not addressed originally to . . . children. It was addressed to the same men who were to bid to keep the other commandments. It was addressed to men who were gray as well as to men who were young. No man ever grows so wise or so great that it is not incumbent upon him to honor his father and his mother. The coming-of-age in a legal sense is a wise limitation upon certain lines of obedience. There is a period in our lives when our parents have the right to command us. After that, they lose the right to command and demand obedience, but they never lose the right to claim our honor." (C.B. McAfee)

- F. "To honor father and mother is to discharge faithfully the duties the child owes them—obedience in childhood, respect, reverence through life, tender care, and support in old age, and kindness and love at all times." (D. Lipscomb)
- G. "This precept therefore prohibits, not only all injurious acts, irreverent and unkind speeches to parents, but enjoins all necessary acts of kindness, filial respect and obedience." (A. Clarke)

II. WHY SHOULD FATHER AND MOTHER BE OBEYED AND HONORED?

- A. First, it is a command of God. Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; 6:20; 23:22; Mk. 7:10; Eph. 6:1,2; Col. 3:20.
- B. Second, it is the first commandment with promise. Eph. 6:2
 - 1. "that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:3
 - a. This originally applied to long life in the land of Canaan. Dt. 4:40; 5:16
 - b. Obedient children as a general rule, live longer than disobedient children because the habit of obedience to a firm Christian rule, formed early in life, the habit of self-control, self-respect, diligence, faithfulness, kindness, etc., so essential to happiness and success in life.
 - 2. "that it may be well with thee." Dt. 5:16; Eph. 6:3. Wm. Masselink once said, "Young men, and young women tell me whether you are obedient to your parents and I will tell you your future."
- C. The Lord Jesus set the example of obedience and honor to parents. Luke 2:51,52
- D. Parents know more than their children, therefore a wise son will listen to his father's instructions. Prov. 13:1. (Children don't always appreciate their parents' wisdom. Mark Twain, returning home after a few years absence, was surprised to see how much his father had learned.)
- E. Children are not able to guide themselves. Prov. 22:15. (Young people, you don't always agree with your parents and you think you know more than they do, but they've traveled this road before. Respect their guidance.)
- F. Obedient children are a blessing to society.
- G. Disobedient children are abominable in God's sight.
 - 1. Under the law of Moses a disobedient, rebellious son was stoned to death. Ex. 21:17; Deut. 21:18-21.
 - 2. "Cursed be he that setteth light by his father ~~and~~ his mother." Dt. 27:16.
 - 3. Jesus said one of the prevailing practices in the wicked days just before the destruction of Jerusalem would be "children shall rise up against their parents." Mk. 13:12
 - 4. "Disobedient to parents" is found in one of the blackest catalogue of sins in the Bible. Rom. 1:30
 - 5. "Disobedient to parents" is placed by Paul between "blasphemers" and "unthankful" in 2 Tim. 3:1,2.

III. SOME WAYS IN WHICH PARENTS ARE TO BE HONORED.

- A. By treating them with respect at all times. (Observe the respect of Solomon for his mother even after he was on the throne.) 1 Kgs. 2:19
- B. By showing gratitude to them for all they have done and are doing for us.
- C. By being obedient and submissive to their wishes at all times.
- D. By being helpful to them in the work that needs to be done.
- E. By placing confidence in them.
- F. By supporting them in their old age if they need it. 1 Tim. 5:4.

Conclusion

1. "The fifth commandment is the guardian of the home. As such, it represents the most urgent business on the agenda of the human race at the present hour in the world's history. Godless forces are loose in the world, and every stable and worthy institution is threatened by the resurgence of evil on a scale unmatched in history." (Coffman, p. 69)
2. "Let children, however, remember that everything depends for them upon their obedience to this fifth commandment of the Decalogue. Their relation to the first four 'Words' is proved by their attitude to this. Infidelity, sacrilege, profanity, rebellion, are all included in the sin of failing to honor parents. It is equally true that all the following commands are included in the fifth. Children that honor their parents will be saved from murder, impurity, theft, slander, and covetousness." (G. Campbell Morgan, p. 64)

MARRIAGE AND THE HOME
(No. 1)

125

121

125

WHY STUDY IT?

Introduction.

1. There has never been a time in the history of the world when lessons on "Marriage and the Home" were more needed. *Hope it will be helpful to following groups (Lesson 121)*
2. Although more detailed reasons for this study will be given later here are three reasons:
 - a. I promised myself that I would preach on the subject at least once a year.
 - b. The elders requested the subject be preached once a year.
 - c. Many Christian homes are not what they should be.
3. Let us consider: "Why Study It?"

Discussion.

I. FIRST, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE.

A. It is important because God has definite laws and instructions about it.

1. To honor and obey God's laws is to be obedient to God and obedience to God results in happiness. **Psa. 128:1.**
2. Jesus gave emphasis to the importance of obeying God's laws in marriage when he said, "From the beginning it hath not been so." **Mt. 19:8.**
3. God intended for us to act in certain ways in regard to marriage.

B. It is important because of the tremendous consequences of marriage.

1. Marriage implies tremendous consequences for the two parties who are being married--the bride and groom.

- a. "People who marry will, in that marriage gain a little taste of heaven or a little taste of hell. Marriage can either degrade or elevate and every person who is involved in it. It will either tend to integrate one's personality and help him to be the kind of person he should be, or else it will tend to disintegrate his personality." (Thomas Warren)
- b. "The highest happiness on earth is in marriage. Every man who is happily married is a successful man even if he has failed in everything else. And every man whose marriage is a failure is not a successful man even if he has succeeded in everything else." (William Lyon Phelps)

2. Marriage is of tremendous importance to the children who came as a result of the union. The atmosphere (love or hate) in which children grow up will determine their personality. *pl. 6:1-4.*

3. Marriage is important to the family of both the bride and groom. What happens in the marriage will vitally affect the lives of the parents.

4. Marriage is important because it so tremendously affects the community and the nation.

- a. It was because of the degradation of the relationship between the sexes that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. **Gen. 19.**
- b. Breakdown of marriage and the home brought the destruction of Rome and France.
- c. The marriage relationship is at the very heart of the moral fibre of any people. Cf. **Prov. 14:34.**
- d. Our nation is being vitally affected by what its people are doing in regard to marriage. The moral fibre of a nation cannot rise above its attitudes and practices in marriage.

II. SECOND, BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING MADE TO DESTROY MARRIAGE AND THE HOME.

- A. First, let us look at the deliberate conscious efforts of the Communists

to destroy the home.

1. Communists envision the time when there will be neither capital nor family.

Communist Manifesto

- a. "The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child. . ." So you see, to Communists, to speak of the relationship of husband and wife as being hallowed, sacred, or bound up with honor in any way is just so much claptrap.
- b. "The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement (prostitution) vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital." "Communists envision the time when there will be neither capital nor family. They tie together individual freedom, the right of free enterprise, marriage and the family as we know them, as they are guaranteed by our constitution, and throw them into the same trash-can." (Thomas Warren)

2. Communists teach that the training of children belongs, not to the parents of the children, but to the state.

- a. This theory has been made concrete in Red China where government officials have separated husband from wife and parents from children. Allowed them to be together only a short while every so often. Effort to reduce to level of animals and pawns of the state.
- b. Diametrically opposed to what God's word teaches about marriage.

3. Communists treat men and women alike except for some minor and special provisions for pregnancy and nursing.

- a. They claim that as long as women remain in the home and do only housework they are mere parasites on society.
- b. They claim women must pull their load if production is to be raised and for this reason they take them out of the home and place them in factories and on farms.
- c. "The breakup of the family--the degradation of marriage--is central to the Communist theory." (Warren)

B. Second, let us look at the indeliberate, perhaps unconscious, efforts to destroy marriage and the home.

1. In our nation there is no deliberate concerted attack on marriage and the home, but they are crumbling nevertheless. *Elton Trueblood*

2. One thing that is happening to America---People do not believe they must obey God.

- a. "The Bible is a back-number" is the cry of multitudes.
- b. No religion or just any religion is as good as the religion of Christ to most people.
- c. Modernism, which denies the basic fundamentals of Christianity, is rampant on every hand.

3. Another thing is the ease with which divorce is obtained.

- a. 1 out of 3 marriages ending in divorce.
- b. Our courts, for trifling reasons, granting divorce to those that don't want to live together.

4. Another thing is the modern corruptions which threaten the purity of the marriage vows.

- a. "Free-love is the practice of living openly with one of the opposite sex at pleasure, and without marriage
- b. "Companionate marriage is a proposed form in which birth control would be legalized and controlled, and childless couples would be granted a divorce by mutual consent. (No financial claim on either one.)
- c. #Common-law marriage is 'An agree^{ment} between a man and women to enter into the marriage relation without ecclesiastical or civil ceremony, such agreement being proable by the writings declarations, or conduct of the parties.'

*New York
Change Law*

5. Another disturbing thing which has happened to the nation is the lowering of the standards of sexual morality.
- a. Most of our nation is beyond the point of being shocked at the immodest apparel of men and women; at sexual relationships outside of marriage, etc.
 - b. The "heroes" of the people of this nation, are many times, people whose morals with the opposite sex are hardly above those of the animals of the barnyard. *People are urged to accept the idea that there is no such thing as right and wrong.*
 - (1) Bertrand Russell, a widely acclaimed philosopher said it is not a useful notion to hold the idea that some things are right and some things wrong.
 - (2) A prominent denomination preacher, several months back, said we need more divorces, because so many people do not get along. Cf. God's attitude toward divorce. **Mal. 2:16.**
 - c. Many books and magazines are tending to undermine the moral fibre of our nation.
 - (1) many refer to God's moral code as out of date.
 - (2) One of the leading books in sales of our time is entitled "Sex and the Single ~~Woman~~". The author takes the position that there is not anything wrong with single women having affairs before marriage, even with married men. The movie industry has offered several million to use the title, for a movie.
6. Another thing that is happening in this nation is allowing other institutions to take over the function of the home. God expects parents to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **Eph. 6:1-4.**
7. "And still further, in this matter of the break-down of the moral fibre of this nation, it should be noted that more and more women are leaving the home for employment in business. More and more, we are doing undeliberately and unconsciously what the Communists are doing deliberately in following a basic tenet of their ideology.)"

- B.
- 1. (Elton Trueblood in his "The Recovery of Family Life" says a very startling thing, when he writes, ". . . We are more like the Russians than we realize or choose to admit. In no area of our experience is the developing similarity more disturbing than that of family life. The sobering truth is that, in our conception of the family and its place in a total society, we are producing without considered and conscious intent, much that the Russian planners have achieved ~~with~~ by deliberate ideological emphasis. We are doing by neglect much that the Marxists have done by social planning." (The Christian Home, P.D. Wilmeth, p. 47))

III. THIRD, BECAUSE THE DESTINY OF OUR NATION IS BEING DECIDED IN ITS HOMES

- A. The destiny is being decided because between birth and age 21, the average child spends 105,000 hours awake. Of these waking hours a maximum of 2,100 are spent in Bible school and worship. About 10,000 hours are spent in secular schools. But 92,000 hours are spent at home. Thus as the home goes, so goes the nation.
- B. An ancient proverb holds: "If there be righteousness within the individual there will be happiness within the home; if there be happiness within the home there will be harmony in the nation; if there be harmony in the nation there will be peace in the world."
- C. "The stability of our social order depends upon the basic institution of the home, and the stability of the home depends upon the moral and spiritual integrity of the husband and the wife." (Carl Spain, 20th Century Christian, Oct. 1952, p)
- D. It was because of the degradation of the relationship between the sexes that God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gormorrah. **Gen. 19.**

"A civilization is sound as the homes of that civilization are sound, and a civilization is weak when the homes that are the basis of it are weak." O. M. Powell D.D. Mar 18, 1903 (1106)

- E. Breakdown of marriage and the home brought the destruction of Rome and France. "But in Nero's day, as the philosopher Seneca tells us, 'No woman need blush to break off her marriage, since the most illustrious ladies have adopted the practice of reckoning the year not by the names of the consuls (there were two chosen for each year, whose names, rather than a number, identified the year,) but by those of their husbands. They divorce in order to remarry; they marry in order to divorce.' The practices of Rome were copies in all the great cities of the empire." (William Green, Divorce, 20th Century Christian, March, 1955, p. 17) *Hillman, in his monumental work 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire', mentions broken homes as one of the first causes.*
- F. The marriage relationship is at the very heart of the moral fibre of any people. Cf. Prov. 14:34. Our nation is being vitally affected by what its people are doing in regard to marriage. The moral fibre of a nation cannot rise above its attitudes and practices in marriage.

Homosexual Efforts To Destroy Home: Two steps in their 12 Step Program are:

- 1. Depict decent folks with traditional family values to be the bad guys.*
- 2. Dismantle the American family and make it possible for gays to marry and adopt children (F. Leard Smith, London's Second Coming, p. 18).*

THE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF "I Do."

Gen. 2:18-24--

Introduction.

1. Marriage is for those who love God and one another.
2. Too long have preachers and elders failed to give our young people instructions about marriage. Even those of us who have been married, for some time need this study.
3. Many people go through the marriage ceremony without every realizing to what they are committing themselves. It does us good to check up occasionally and see what was said.
4. Let us consider:

Discussion.

- I. SOME MISTAKEN VIEWS OF THE MARRIAGE VOW. *(Some ideas: 20th Century, C. 2 p. 5)*
 - A. Some view marriage as something that isn't to be permanent at all, but something to gain a selfish end. *(Hamilton, also girl + father)*
 1. "Recently, in a leading magazine, there was published a cartoon which depicted one world-wise young woman speaking to another one, and she was saying, 'If I divorce him, I know he will have to give me a great deal of money in settlement, but, so far, I just haven't been able to get him to propose.'" *(20th C. C., Oct. 1962, p. 7)*
 2. This view is why people marry for so many different reasons. (Money, social standing, popularity, etc.)
 - B. Some view the ceremony only as legal trifle which must be performed to legalize physical intimacy.
 - C. Some view the vow as a trifle which is the business of the marriage partners only. Its their business if they decide to break the vows.
 - D. Others view the vow as joining together two angels, two perfect beings that will never make a mistake and have trouble.
 - E. Some look upon it in the opposite way. They know trouble will arise and intend to use it as an excuse to break up their marriage.
 - F. Some feel that as long as they obey the civil law God will accept and bless their union. God's law is binding on sinners and Christians alike.
 1. Gen. 2:24.
 2. John the Baptist recognized God's law binding on sinners. Mt. 14:1-12.

II. SOME THINGS WHICH THE MARRIAGE VOW INVOLVES.

- A. (It involves others besides the bride and groom.
 1. It involves the Lord Himself. God joins those that are eligible to be married. Mt. 19:1-9. *Who?* He's involved in every marriage.
 2. The community and the nation are involved. Prov. 14:34.
 - a. The moral fibre of our nation is being destroyed because of the loose attitude toward marriage.
 - b. Because they are involved the intention to be married needs to be announced publically well in advance.
 - c. Marriage should be performed in the community where the two parties are known. (What our friends think about our marriage can be a great help against evil.)
 3. The families of the bride and groom are involved.
 4. The children born to the union are involved.
- B. It involves one's committing himself to leave his father and mother.
 1. Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31.
 2. Some people that marry try to continue to be a part of two households.
 3. Some parents can't give up their "little darlings" and by their continual meddling cause trouble.

Insert "How to Break up a Child's Marriage"

This side

3. Young people should continue to love, honor and respect their parents, but they must also remember their own home first.

C. There is some history involved in the marriage vow.

1. It was instituted by the Lord in the Garden of Eden. **Gen. 2:18ff.**

2. Marriage was honored and immorality condemned on Mt. Sinai. **Ex. 20:14.**

3. Marriage was honored and upheld by the Lord. **Mt. 5:32.**

4. Paul declared marriage honorable. **Heb. 13:4.**

D. Marriage involves some very serious matters.

1. Outside of man's relationship with the Lord, marriage is the most solemn, serious, intimate and tender into which human hearts can enter.

2. It involves a closer relationship than that of parents and children. **Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31.**

3. It is a union so serious that it should be severed only by death. **Rom. 7:1-4.**

4. It involves making a decision that will determine one's happiness or unhappiness here as well as one's eternal destiny.

E. Marriage involves covenant and commitment. Let's study some statements of the marriage vow:

1. "Do you John take this woman?"

a. It involves a commitment of taking with whatever weakness and strengths the other has.

b. It involves taking this woman voluntary.

2. "To be your lawful wedded wife?"

a. To be wedded implies oneness. **Mt. 19:5.**

(Love wife as self)

b. To be wedded implies joining. **Mt. 19:6.**

3. "**To have** and to hold from this day forward, to live together after God's ordinance."

a. To possess in the fullest sense of the word. **1 Cor. 7:4.**

b. The permanency is taught--"until death shall separate us."

c. Promises to be governed by God's law.

4. "And do you promise to love her and honor her?"

• Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. **Eph. 5:25.**

(1) He loved the church realistically. (recognized her weaknesses)

(2) He love the church sacrificially.

(3) He loved the church purposely: "that he might present it to himself."

(4) He loved the church wilfully, deliberately.

(5) He loved the church absolutely.

5. "Do you promise to remain with her in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity?"

6. "Do you promise to keep yourself to her, and to her only?" (When one marries he gives his body to his companion. **1 Cor. 7:4.**)

7. "Until death shall separate us?"

a. Not "as long as your partner doesn't cross you" or "as long as we are compatible."

b. God hates covenant breakers. **Mal. 2:16.**

8. By the vow a man promises to support and protect his wife and the wife promises to obey and submit to her husband.

Conclusion.

Husbands and wives need to pray every day and read their Bible. Let every husband pray that he may be able to so live with his wife that she will never regret she married him. Let every wife pray that she may be a help meet to her husband. Let both pray for God's help to live closer together and to bear the loads of life.

YOURS CAN BE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGEIntroduction.

1. By successful marriages I do not mean those that merely avoid divorce. A successful marriage is "one which reaches the physical, mental or intellectual, emotional, and spiritual levels which God would have marriages to reach."
2. There is much value to be gained from successful marriages.
 - a. The lives of the marriage partners will be intensely enriched, which enables them to enrich other lives.
 - b. When relationships in the home are improved the relationship between the home and church will be improved.
3. In five previous lessons we have studied:
 - a. Why Study About Marriage. (2 Lessons)
 - b. Why Marriages Fail.
 - c. The Significance of the Marriage Vow.
 - d. Marriage is not for the Immature.
4. In this lesson I want to tie together many of the things already studied, with some new thoughts, to set forth the ingredients of a successful marriage.
5. There are some things both husband and wife can do to make their marriage successful.

Discussion.

- I. BOTH BRIDE AND GROOM SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS THE TRUE BASIS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.
 - A. Just as one cannot build a strong house out of rotten wood so one cannot build a successful marriage out of people of poor character.
 - B. Each one coming to take the marriage vows should bring a pure mind and pure body. **1 Cor. 3:17; 6:19**
 1. There is no double standard of morality---one for the boy and one for the girl.
 2. You cannot bring a pure mind and pure body to the altar if you associate with people of low morals and low standards. **1 Cor. 15:33.**
 - C. To have Christian character one must become a Christian, a child of God; more than just becoming religious. **Mt. 7:21; Jn. 3:3,5; Acts 2:41,47.**
 - D. One must become an active, faithful child of God. "Divorce is unknown where both partners are faithful Christians."
- II. TRUE LOVE IS ESSENTIAL IN A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE. HOW DO PEOPLE ACT WHEN THEIR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH TRUE LOVE? 1 Cor. 13:1-8.
 - A. One is longsuffering with his partner's weaknesses.
 - B. One is kind.
 - C. One is free from pride and arrogance and doesn't always insist on own way.
 - D. One does not vaunt himself and treat companion with contempt.
 - E. One is not betrayed into a forgetfulness of the other's due. Avoid harsh language, etc.
 - F. One does not seek own happiness at the expense of the other.
 - G. One is not easily provoked.
 - H. One does not take account of evil---remember all misdeeds so as to use them later.
 - I. One is saddened when companion fails.
 - J. One continues to hold on patiently when seemingly all grounds for hope seem lost.
- III. MARRIAGE PARTNERS SHOULD EXPECT THEIR LOVE TO GROW.
 - A. The honeymoon is soon over, but the love should grow deeper and deeper.

B. Marriage love should become more meaningful and understanding.

IV. MARRIAGE PARTNERS MUST RECOGNIZE THAT MARRIAGE IS PRIMARILY A SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH INVOLVES ALL ASPECTS***PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL.

A. Just as Christ took the church to lead her to a higher spiritual level so man is to help his wife to a higher spiritual level. Eph. 5:22-27.

B. Men and women are to live together in such a way as to help them grow spiritually. 1 Pet. 3:7.

✓ V. THE COUPLE SHOULD LEARN OR SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GOD, NOT MAN, INSTITUTED MARRIAGE.

A. The couple should agree then to be guided by God's laws, not man's.

A. 5:29.

B. They should realize God's desire from the beginning. Mt. 19:3-6.

C. They should realize how God feels about divorce and a man dealing treacherously with his wife. Mal. 2:14-16.

VI. MARRIED COUPLES MUST LEARN HOW TO HANDLE PROPERLY THEIR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

A. It means learning to live within your income.

B. It means you do not have to buy everything you see or everything you want.

C. It means giving God proper place in your financial affairs--first.

VII. MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD AVOID THE LITTLE QUARRELS.

A. Many husbands and wives quarrel over things of little importance.

B. Most of the big quarrels stem from the little ones.

VIII. MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER, NOT AGAINST.

A. Husband and wife have become one in the battle against the world.

B. If you do criticize each other don't do it before others and before your children. It's best to avoid it.

IX. HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOULD DO THINGS TOGETHER.

A. It's good to do things with your children---builds family unity.

B. But its also good to do things---just husband and wife---away from others.

X. MARRIED COUPLES MUST LEARN TO COMPROMISE ON THINGS THAT DO NOT REALLY MATTER---GIVE AND TAKE.

A. Do not be afraid to admit your companion has a better idea.

B. Do not be ashamed to apologize and say "I'm sorry." How many marriages have failed, because false pride kept one companion from saying, "I'm sorry."

CONCLUSION

1. Do you want your marriage to be successful?
2. Do you want to grow in your relationship with your partner?
3. Then how much are you willing to work at it?

Yours Can be a Successful Marriage
No. 6

Introduction.

1. By a successful marriage I do not mean those that merely avoid divorce. A successful marriage is "one which reaches the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels which God would have marriage to reach."
2. There is great value to be gained from a successful marriage.
 - (a) The lives of the marriage partners will be intensely enriched which enables them to enrich other lives.
 - (b) When relationships in the home are improved, the relationship between the home and the church is improved.
3. In five previous lessons we have noted:
 - (a) Why study marriage (2 Lessons).
 - (b) The profound significance of the marriage vow.
 - (c) Why marriages fail.
 - (d) Marriage is not for the immature.
4. In this lesson I propose:
 - (a) To tie together some matters already studied;
 - (b) Add some new thoughts;
 - (c) To set forth some ingredients of a successful marriage;
 - (d) To note some things that both husband and wife can do to make their marriage successful.

Discussion.

- I. BOTH BRIDE AND GROOM SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT CHRISTIAN CHARACTER IS THE TRUE BASIS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE.
 - A. Just as one cannot build a strong house out of rotten wood so one cannot build a successful marriage out of people of poor character.
 - B. Each one coming to take the marriage vows should bring a pure mind and pure body. (1 Cor. 3:17; 6:19)
 1. There is not double standard of morality -- one for the boy and one for the girl.
 2. You cannot bring a pure mind and pure body to the alter if you associate with people of low morals and low standards (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - C. To have Christian character one must become a Christian, a child of God; more than just becoming religious. (Mt. 7:21; Jn. 3:3, 5; Acts 2:41, 47)
 - D. One must become an active, faithful child of God. "Divorce is unknown where both partners are faithful Christians."
- II. TRUE LOVE IS ESSENTIAL IN A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE. HOW DO PEOPLE ACT WHEN THEIR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH TRUE LOVE? (1 Cor. 13:1-8).
 - A. One is longsuffering with his partner's weaknesses.
 - B. One is kind.
 - C. One is free from pride and arrogance and doesn't always insist on his own way.
 - D. One does not vaunt himself and treat companion with contempt.
 - E. One is not betrayed into a forgetfulness of the other's due. Avoid harsh language, etc.
 - F. One does not seek their own happiness at the expense of the other.

- G. One is not easily provoked.
- H. One does not take account of evil -- remember all misdeeds so as to use them later.
- I. One is saddened when companion fails.
- J. One continues to hold on patiently when seemingly all grounds for hope seem lost.
- III. MARRIAGE PARTNERS SHOULD EXPECT THEIR LOVE TO GROW.
 - A. The honeymoon is soon over, but the love should grow deeper and deeper.
 - B. Marriage love should become more meaningful and understanding. *cf. Tit. 2:3-5*
- IV. MARRIAGE PARTNERS MUST RECOGNIZE THAT MARRIAGE IS PRIMARILY A SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH INVOLVES ALL ASPECTS ** PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL.
 - A. Just as Christ took the church to lead her to a higher spiritual level so man is to help his wife to a higher spiritual level. (Eph. 5:22-27)
 - B. Men and women are to live together in such a way as to help them grow spiritually. (1 Peter 3:7)
- V. THE COUPLE SHOULD LEARN OR SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GOD, NOT MAN, INSTITUTED MARRIAGE.
 - A. The couple should agree then to be guided by God's laws, not man's. (Acts 5:29)
 - B. They should realize God's desire from the beginning. (Mt. 19:3-6)
 - C. They should realize how God feels about divorce and a man dealing treacherously with his wife. (Mal. 2:14-16)
- VI. MARRIED COUPLES MUST LEARN HOW TO HANDLE PROPERLY THEIR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.
 - A. It means learning to live within your income.
 - B. It means you do not have to buy everything you see or everything you want.
 - C. It means giving God proper place in your financial affairs -- **first**.
- VII. MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD AVOID THE LITTLE QUARRELS.
 - A. Many husbands and wives quarrel over things of little importance.
 - B. Most of the big quarrels stem from the little ones.
- VIII. MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD FIGHT FOR EACH OTHER, NOT AGAINST.
 - A. Husband and wife have become one in the battle against the world.
 - B. If you do criticize each other, do not do it before others and before your children. It is best to avoid it.
- IX. HUSBAND AND WIFE SHOULD DO THINGS TOGETHER.
 - A. It is good to do things with your children -- it builds family unity.
 - B. But it is also good to do things -- just husband and wife -- away from others.
- X. MARRIED COUPLES MUST LEARN TO COMPROMISE ON THINGS THAT DO NOT REALLY MATTER -- GIVE AND TAKE.
 - A. Do not be afraid to admit your companion has a better idea.
 - B. Do not be ashamed to apologize and say "I'm Sorry." How many marriages have failed, because false pride kept one companion from saying, "I'm Sorry."

Conclusion

1. Do you want your marriage to be successful?
2. Do you want to grow in your relationship with your partner?
3. Then how much are you willing to work at it?

Questions About Marriage
No. 8

Introduction.

1. Christians in the first century had their problems just as we have ours today.
 - (a) The Church at Corinth had many problems which Paul discusses in his letter to them.
 - (b) They had the problem of division, sin in the church, lawsuits, marriages, sacrifices to idols, the Lord's supper, spiritual gifts, etc.
2. The church was interested in finding the solutions for these problems.
3. In this lesson, I propose to:
 - (a) Note the questions and answers about marriage that Paul discussed in 1 Corinthians 7.
 - (b) Note the question - Is God's marriage law binding on the alien sinner?
 - (c) Note some questions you have asked.

Discussion.

- I. IS MARRIAGE TO BE DESIRED OR AVOIDED BY CHRISTIANS?
 - A. Some of the Jews in Corinth affirmed that one broke God's divine precept if one remained single.
 - B. The Greek philosophers affirmed that if a man could live happily and pure he should not enter marriage.
 - C. The Corinthian then were urged, on the one hand to marry, and on the other hand to remain single. Under such conditions they wrote Paul.
 - D. Paul's answer to the question must be considered in view of some present distress. (1 Cor. 7:26).
 1. Marriage is a matter of indifference - one may marry or not marry. (1 Cor. 7:7-9)
 2. Marriage is a state that belongs only to this life (1 Cor. 7:29-31)
 3. So Paul leaves it up to each individual. (1 Cor. 7:8-9)
 - a. Marry if you need to marry.
 - b. Remain single if you can.
- II. WHAT IS PAUL'S INSPIRED ADVICE WHERE BOTH ARE CHRISTIANS? WHAT SHOULD BE THE COURSE FOLLOWED IF SEPARATION OCCURS?
 - A. "Let not the wife depart from her husband." "Let not the husband put away his wife." (1 Cor. 7:10, 11)
 - B. But if they cannot live together and still serve God and one departs, this course must be followed:
 1. They must remain married (7:11)
 2. Or be reconciled to each other (7:11)
 - C. The exception the Lord gives in Matt. 5:32 is not mentioned here because seemingly Paul is discussing separation and not divorce.
- III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH OUGHT TO BE DONE WHERE ONE IS A CHRISTIAN AND THE OTHER ONE IS NOT? (One obeys the gospel after marriage and the other does not.)
 - A. Evidently, due to teaching that prevailed in Corinth or to misunderstanding

of the gospel, some of the Corinthians believed that a Christian could not continue to live with a non-Christian.

- B. If the unbeliever was willing to continue to live with the Christian "let him not put her away", "let her not leave him". (7:12, 13)
 - 1. There was hope that the non-Christian might be converted. (7:16)
 - 2. Peter expressed this hope when he told Christian wives how to conduct themselves before their non-Christian husbands. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)
- C. If the unbeliever departed despite the Christian's efforts then the Christian is no longer under bondage. (7:15) *(No longer obligated to that one to carry out the marriage dues and obligations.)*

IV. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT A WIDOW MARRYING AGAIN?

- A. Under the present distress Paul felt a widow would be happier if she remained unmarried. (7:40)
- B. Under normal circumstances Paul encouraged young widows to marry. (1 Tim. 5:14) *Why?*
 - 1. He recognized the strong appeal of the flesh. (1 Tim. 5:11)
 - 2. A lot of idle time would give room for temptation to engage in sin. (1 Tim. 5:13) As a result the devil would have occasion to blaspheme. (1 Tim. 5:14)
- C. The only restriction placed upon the second marriage is that it be in the Lord. (1 Cor. 7:39)
- D. Some questions a widow might consider before entering into a second marriage.
 - 1. Can I adjust to a second marriage or will I live too much in the past?
 - 2. What about the children? Will they be able to adjust?
 - 3. Can I tolerate mention of my second companion's former mate (if they have been married before) and can he or she tolerate mention of mine?

V. WHAT ARE SOME CONTENTIONS ABOUT WHO IS BOUND BY GOD'S MARRIAGE LAW?

- A. First, there are some who contend that people in the world (outside the church) are under civil law exclusively.
 - 1. "While in the world, people cannot be with or without 'a Scriptural cause' for anything, seeing they are not under Christian law, but under civil law exclusively." (E. C. Fuqua, *The Vindicator*, Oct. 1951, p. 6)
 - 2. "All his law and legislation are exerted in the church, and over its members exclusively; so that the world is in no sense under any law of Christ." (Ibid., p. 5)
 - 3. "God has placed the world as such under civil law exclusively (Ibid)
 - 4. "That being true, nothing done in the world was looked upon as a sin, for it transgressed no law from Him." (Ibid, p. 4)
 - 5. "Therefore, no specific sins, like fornication, could be levied against

people in the world." (Ibid)

6. "They were not 'living in adultery' in the world, because adultery is a violation of God's specific law; and people in the world are not under any specific law from God. They are not therefore, required to repent of any specific sins." (Ibid, p. 3)

07. The Bible teaches that alien sinner can violate the moral laws of God.

a. One cannot violate a law to which one is not amendable (Rom. 3:19; 4:15)

b. Aliens were condemned for violating God's moral laws in Romans 1:24-32.

c. The Corinthians were sinners when they were aliens but they were guilty of adultery, fornication, etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)

d. Paul condemned the heathen for living in the lusts of the flesh because it was contrary to God's law. (Eph. 2:1-3)

08. 8. "The doctrine that the laws of Christ do not apply to all, and that aliens are subject to civil law only, carries with it many disturbing implications." (Roy Deaver)

a. There would be no such thing as fornication and adultery since the civil law does not forbid or punish these acts.

b. Group marriages of one hundred men and one hundred women with total sexual privileges to all would be moral if the civil law authorized it.

c. 'Trial marriages' to see if companions are sexually compatible would be approved of God if the civil law sanctioned it.

d. Free love communes with total license would not be wrong. Scientific breeding of the human race, like that of livestock, would be allowed.

e. Concubinage and polygamy would be permitted if the civil law authorized them.

f. Complete freedom to divorce and remarry for any reason would be possible as long as it was recognized by the civil law.

g. Homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, violation no law of man, would be legitimate unions.

h. All non-Christians would not be married in the eyes of God because God would have absolutely nothing to say to them on anything. Aliens would be merely the same as animals mating in the woods. When the aliens are baptized, would that marry them in God's eyes? Baptism is said to effect a lot of things in the Bible but this doctrine has it even performing marriages! What if one party is a Christian and his spouse is not? Are they married in the eyes of God? Are children born to this union illegitimate?

to j. So long as one is out of the church, he cannot be guilty of any sin (wrongdoing), except as he may be guilty of violating some civil law.

skl. The world could never be charged with committing any specific sins. Can aliens violate Gal. 5:19-21?

- (1) An alien could never obey the gospel for he would not be subject to the laws of Christ. Furthermore, who could become a sinner or enter the world if he cannot violate God's law?
 - (a) Is one born a sinner?
 - (b) Is it a violation of the civil law that makes me a sinner?
 - (c) It is a violation of the law of God?
 - (d) Or just what?

Q.9. OBJECTIONS

a. 1. "Baptism takes away all sins."

- (1) It is true that all sins are washed away by the blood of Christian baptism but baptism does not turn a sinful act into a rightful relationship.
- (2) Could a man running a house of prostitution keep running the house of prostitution?

f. 12. "Paul says (1 Cor. 7:20) that a man should abide in his calling in which he was called."

- (1) What if a man had ten wives when he was called?
- (2) What if a man was involved in a homosexual marriage when called?
- (3) Paul is teaching one may remain in a legitimate relationship, but not a wrong one.

c. 13. "What about the home and the children?"

- (1) This is of course an objection geared to arouse the emotions.
- (2) No one with the compassion of Christ can fail to be touched with this objection but one can break up an unlawful sexual relationship without throwing the children out the door or breaking up the home.
- (3) Are polygamous marriages sinful? Should they be broken up? What about the children here?
- (4) What if a Mormon had five wives? Would he have to give them up if he became a Christian?
- (5) In Indonesia, a Moslem can have, legally, four wives. Would he have to break up this polygamous relation if he became a Christian?

10. SYLLOGISM.

- a. Major Premise: All men who violate the law of Christ are

- men who are subject to the law of Christ.
 - b. Minor Premise: Men in the world are men who have violated the law of Christ.
 - (1) The Athenians were guilty of idolatry. (Acts 17:23)
 - Idolatry is a violation of the law of Christ. (Gal. 5:20)
 - (2) The Corinthians were guilty of idolatry before they were washed (baptized).
 - c. Conclusion: Men in the world are men who are subject to the law of Christ.
- B. Second, there are some who contend that alien sinner is under civil law, also under the law of the heart, but not under God's marriage law because it is only for Christians.
 - 1. "This is the basic argument in my book, i.e., that Christ's legislation in His personal ministry was for those in his covenant who were married to one another. Therefore, it is unscriptural for us to extend it to include mixed marriages (Paul did not), or to marriages to two people outside the covenant." (James Bales, *Not Under Bondage*, p. 8)
 - 2. Therefore, we have no right to bind on people in the world the law of Christ, which He bound on two married people who are in His covenant. Once they obey the gospel they come under Christ's law in this matter and they are not to divorce and remarry except for fornication. However, the law of Christ is not retroactive and they do not have to break up their second marriage when they come into Christ even though they had not been divorced for some reason other than fornication." (James Bales, *Not Under Bondage*, p. 10)
 - 3. God's marriage law is binding on all people.
 - a. God gave a universal law in the very beginning of time. (Gen. 2:18-24)
 - b. John the Baptist told Herod that he had no right to have his brother Philip's wife. (Matt. 14:1-9)
 - c. The argument that Romans 2:14 becomes the standard of conduct for those outside of Christ removes the need of divine revelation.
 - d. If God's marriage law is not binding on the alien sinner, and there is no need of any change after baptism, then what about the Mormon who has more than one wife, or the Moslem who has four.

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MARRIAGE AND THE HOME--WHY STUDY IT?
NO. 1

INTRODUCTION.

1. There has never been a time in the history of the world when lessons on Marriage and the Home were more needed.
2. It is hoped that these lessons will be helpful to the following groups:
 - a. Those young people who have never been married but are looking forward to marriage.
 - b. Young couples who have been married a short time and still do not know much about marriage.
 - c. Those who have been married for some time but whose marriage is a mediocre affair.
 - d. Those whose marriage is in trouble with a lot of strife and bitterness.
 - e. Those whose marriage is in great trouble and on the verge of divorce.
3. The truths set forth in this series are based on three sources:
 - a. What God's word says about marriage
 - b. Some things that I have learned from counseling and talking with MARRIED people.
 - c. Mistakes that I made when I was married.
4. In this lesson we propose some reasons why it should be studied.

DISCUSSION.

I. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE.

- A. Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other's mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance, and comradeship, such as should assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live (H. Leo Boles).
- B. It is important because God has certain definite laws and instructions about marriage.
 1. To honor and obey God's laws is to be obedient to God and obedience to God results in happiness (Psa. 128:1).
 2. Jesus gave emphasis to the importance of obeying God's laws in marriage when he said, "From the beginning it hath not been so" (Matt. 19:8).
 3. God intended for us to act in certain ways in regard to marriage.
- C. It is important because of the tremendous consequences of marriage.
 1. It implies tremendous consequences for the two parties who are being married--the bride and groom.
 - a. Thomas Warren said: "People who marry will in that marriage gain a little taste of heaven or a little taste of hell. Marriage can either degrade or elevate every person who is involved in it. It will either tend to integrate one's personality and help him to be the kind of person he should be, or else it will tend to disintegrate his personality."
 2. William Lyon Phelps wrote: "The highest happiness on earth is in marriage. Every man who is happily married is a successful even if he has failed in everything else. And the man whose marriage is a failure is not a successful man even if he has succeeded in everything else."
 2. It is of tremendous importance to the children who come as a result of that union. The atmosphere (love or hate) in which

children grow up will determine their personality.

3. It is important to the families of both the bride and groom. What happens in that marriage will vitally affect the lives of the parents.

II. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE OF ALL THE EFFORTS THAT ARE BEING PUT FORTH TO DESTROY THE HOME.

A. First, look at the conscious deliberate efforts of Communists to destroy the home.

1. They envision the time when there will be neither capital nor family.
 - a. "The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child . . . ' So you see, to Communists, to speak of the relationship between husband and wife as being hallowed, sacred, or bound with honor in any way is just so much claptrap.
 - b. "The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement (prostitution) vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital" (Communist Manifesto).
 - c. "Communists envision the time when there will be neither capital nor family. They tie together individual freedom, the right of free enterprise, marriage and the family, as we know them as they are guaranteed by our constitution, and throw them in the same trash can" (Thomas Warren).
2. Communists teach that the training of children belongs not to the parents of the children, but to the state.
 - a. This has been made concrete in China where government officials separate husband from wife, and children from parents, except for short times on certain occasions.
 - b. This is diametrically opposed to God's teachings on marriage.
3. Communists treat men and women alike except for minor and special provisions for pregnancy and nursing.
 - a. They claim that as long as women remain in the home and do only housework they are parasites on society.
 - b. They claim that women must pull their load if production is to be raised. For this reason they take them out of the home and place them in factories and on farms.
4. "The breakup of the family--the degradation of marriage--is central to the Communist theory" (Thomas Warren).

B. Second, consider the homosexual efforts to destroy the home. Two steps in their twelve step program are:

1. Depict decent folks with traditional family values to be the bad guys.
2. Dismantle the American family and make it possible for gays to marry and adopt children (F. LeGard Smith, Sodom's Second Coming, p. 18).

C. Third, consider the moral decline over the past three decades.

1. Consider what was said:
 - a. "God is dead." When that movement died, they said;
 - b. "The practice of religion robs you of happiness." Then they said
 - c. "America does not need the moral values of the past." Now they are saying;
 - d. "There are no absolutes."
2. People do not believe they have to obey God.
 1. "The Bible is a back-number" is the cry of multitudes.
 2. No religion or just any religion is as good as the religion of Christ to most people.
3. Divorce can be obtained with great ease.
 - a. One out of every three marriages end in divorce.
 - b. 52 different reasons allowed for divorce today.

4. Another thing is the modern corruptions which threaten the purity of the marriage vows.
 - a. "Free-love" is the practice of living with one of the opposite sex at pleasure, and without marriage. "Live-in-lovers, illegitimacy and shameless promiscuity are not just an exception to the rule. They are rapidly becoming the rule ..." (Clyde Tilley, Jackson Sun., Jan. 4, 1994).
 - b. "Companionate marriage" is a proposed form in which birth control would be legalized and controlled, and childless couples would be granted a divorce by mutual consent (No financial claim on either one).
 - c. "Common-law marriage" is an agreement between a man and a woman to enter into the marriage with no ecclesiastical or civil ceremony, such an agreement being provable by the writings, declarations, or conduct of the parties.
5. Another disturbing factor is the lowering of our moral standards.

- a. Most of our nation is beyond the point of being shocked at the immodest apparel of men and women, at sexual relationships outside of marriage, etc.
- b. The "heroes" of the people of this nation are, many times, people whose morals with the opposite sex are hardly above those of the animals of the barnyard.
- c. People are urged to "accept the idea that there is no such thing as right and wrong." Bertrand Russell, a widely acclaimed philosopher said, "it is not a useful notion to hold the idea that some things are right and some things are wrong."
- d. Just a few years back one of the leading books in all times sales was "Sex and the Single Girl." The author took the position that there is nothing wrong with single women having an affair before marriage, even with married men.

III. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE THE DESTINY OF OUR NATION IS BEING DECIDED IN THE HOME.

- A. The average child, between birth and 21, spends about 105,000 hours awake. Of these waking hours a maximum of 2,400 are spent in Bible school and worship; about 10,000 hours in public schools; but 92,000 are spent in the home. Thus, as David Popenoe of Rutgers University, quoting social scientists from Margaret Mead to James Q. Wilson, demonstrates that "folk wisdom is right in believing that as families go, so goes the nation."
- B. And ancient proverb holds: "If there be righteousness within the individual there will be happiness within the home; if there be happiness within the home there will be harmony in the nation; if there be harmony in the nation there will be peace in the world."
- C. The stability of our social order depends upon the basic institution of the home, and the stability of the home depends upon the moral and spiritual integrity of the husband and wife (Carl Spain, 20th Century Christian, Oct. 1952).
- D. "A civilization is sound as the homes of that civilization are sound; and a civilization is weak when the homes that make up that civilization are weak (J.M. Powell, GA, Nov. 18, 1948).
- E. It was because of the degradation between the sexes that God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19).
- F. Gibbons, in his monumental work, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, lists broken homes as one of the five leading causes of the fall.
- G. William Bennett, former secretary of education, in his 1994 edition of The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators, gives some startling

facts:

1. "The average teenager spends 1.8 hours per week reading, 5.6 hours on homework, and 21 hours watching television."
2. Teenage pregnancy have doubled in the past 30 years.
3. Teenage suicides ave t;ripled (Bennett)
4. The proportion of the average American adult life spent with spouse and children has declined from 62% in 1960 to 43% today (1994).
5. Two thirds of all black babies and 22% of all white babies are born without the benefit of married parents(Tilley, JS, Jan. 4, 1994)

CONCLUSION

1. Marriage and the home need to be studied because (1) of the importance of marriage, (2) the efforts that are being put forth to destroy the home, and (3) the destiny of our nation is being decided in the home.
2. What a challenge to build better marriages.

WHY STUDY IT?

Introduction.

1. "Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other's mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance, and comradeship, such as should assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live." (H. Leo Boles)
2. Marriage is a divine institution and God's pattern for it is perfect. Any deviations therefrom prove destructive to the home. The blessings of heaven attend a marriage so long as it is according to divine rule.
3. In our previous studies we considered two reasons for studying it.
 - a. Because of the importance of marriage.
 - b. Because of efforts that are currently being made to destroy marriage and the home.
4. In this lesson we want to consider that:

Discussion.

III. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE OF THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE.

- (A. One purpose of marriage is to propagate the human race. **Gen. 1:28; 9:1; 1 Tim. 5:14.**)

1. Some people try to thwart this purpose by refusing to have children.
2. Others violate God's law by having children outside of wedlock. (Illegitimacy has increased 300% in recent years. Over 250,000 high school girls bear children out of wedlock each year.)
3. Based on some surveys (The Home, P. 25) the divorce rate in childless homes is 71% compared with 8% in homes with children.

- (B. Another purpose of marriage is to provide companionship. **Gen. 2:18-25.**)

1. Most men need a woman to love and need to be loved by a woman.
2. Woman supplies that which is lacking in man and allows him to express himself, to know himself, and to develop himself.

- (C. A third purpose of marriage is to prevent immorality. **1 Cor. 7:1-5.**)

1. A few years ago leading educators in Alabama estimated on the basis of surveys taken that 83% of the college students and 49% of high school students had been engaged in sexual immorality.
2. The sexual abilities of men and women are not wrong in themselves. God placed them in our bodies. It's only when such is abused and misused.
 - a. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled. . ." **Heb. 13:4.**
 - b. Boys and girls, men and women need to recognize that it is good in marriage, but never to be engaged in outside of marriage. (Petting prepares one for the final act.)
3. Read and discuss **1 Cor. 7:1-5.** (Read several translations here.)

- (D. A fourth purpose of marriage is to provide responsibilities to both husband and wife.

1. The husband must provide for his family (**1 Tim. 5:8**), and help train his children (**Eph. 6:4**).
2. The wife is to be queen of the house. **1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:5.**)

stop
IV. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE IT SERVES THE PURPOSE OF GIVING MAN A MODEL OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. Eph. 5:25. If this teaching is followed here is the situation:

- A. Husbands would love their wives tenderly and unselfishly.
- B. Wives would lovingly submit themselves to the leadership and care of their husbands.

V. MARRIAGE SHOULD BE STUDIED BECAUSE IT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

- A. Some times young and old alike say: "What we are doing is our business, it isn't anyone else's."
- B. Marriage is God's business. He has laws about it.
- C. Marriage is the business of the children born as a result of the union.
- D. Marriage is the business of the families of bride and groom because they are involved.
- E. Marriage is the business of the community and nation. This is why it is good for such to be as public as possible.

VI. MARRIAGE NEEDS TO BE STUDIED BECAUSE OF SUCH DISTORTED VIEWS AS TO HOW TO CHOOSE A COMPANION.

- A. Hollywood is setting the standard of choice in many cases.
- B. Only a study of God's word about marriage will enable one to distinguish between physical attraction and true love.

VII. MARRIAGE NEEDS TO BE STUDIED BECAUSE OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON IT.

A. 1 Pet. 3:7.

- B. Can you picture a husband and wife growing spiritually in an atmosphere of criticism, strife, envy, etc.

Some People Choose a Companion On the Basis of:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Economic Security | 6. Social Prestige |
| 2. Emotional | 7. Pity |
| 3. Escape Loneliness | 8. Escape Home Situation |
| 4. Spite | 9. For Adventure |
| 5. Sexual Attraction | 10. Parents wishes |

Introduction.

1. It is hoped this series of sermons will prove profitable to all, especially to the following groups:
 - a. Young people who have been married, but who are looking forward to marriage.
 - b. Young couples who have been married but a short while and still do not know very much about marriage.
 - c. Those who have been married for quite some time, but whose marriage is a mediocre affair.
 - d. Those whose marriage is in trouble with a lot of strife and bitterness.
 - e. Those whose marriage is in great trouble and, therefore in danger of divorce.
2. Marriages that fail are not confined to those that end in divorce. "A marriage fails when it is not what God would have it to be."
 - a. God intends for marriage to help men and women enjoy life to its fullest. Cf. Prov. 5:15-21.
 - b. God intends for it to help in preparing for eternity.

Discussion.

I. MARRIAGES ARE FAILING.

- A. Basically marriages fail because the persons involved in them fail as persons.
 1. Inadequate persons are involved and those inadequate persons then become inadequate partners.
 2. To have a happy, successful marriage, there must be adequate partners.
- B. The persons involved in marriages fail as persons because they are not guided by the Bible.
 1. When marriage fails from the standpoint of companionship it's failure to heed God's word. Gen. 2:18. (Some husbands stay away from their home as much as possible, even when their work does not require them to do so. Why? In many cases there is not anything to come home to.)
 2. When marriage fails from a physical standpoint it's a failure to heed God's word. 1 Cor. 7:1-5. Generally due to two reasons:
 - a. Deprivation which drives one of the partners to someone else, or:
 - b. Forgetfulness on the part of one as to who his or her body belongs.
 3. Marriages fail then, not because there is anything wrong with marriage or God's instructions, but there is something wrong with the persons in marriage. *"they are ignorant of God's purpose, or anything but commit themselves to it." (Small)*

II. WHAT FACTORS ARE INVOLVED IN MARRIAGES THAT FAIL.

- A. The failure to understand the commitment which is involved in marriage.
 1. "Till death us do part" is practically a permanent, unconditional surrender.
 2. The Lord allows only one exception to the "till death us do part." Mt. 5:32.
- B. Another reason for failure in marriage is immaturity.
 1. An entire lesson will probably be devoted to this point later, but a brief discussion is needed here.
 2. During the course of a lifetime people pass through several stages of development.
 - a. First, they are children. Period of dependence on others for everything.
 - b. Second, the stage in life called adolescence. This is the period

of seeking to be independent. They resent any authority because they are seeking to find their place as independent individuals.

c. Finally the stage of maturity is reached. One is no longer striking out in this stage, but seeking good not only for himself, but for others and for God. Some people never mature/

3. Many married people never grow up, but continue to live in the adolescent stage. Some are dominated by the thinking of a child, "I will take my ball and go home if you don't let me be first batter." Some pack up and go back to Mama.

a. No one is emotionally mature until he learns and practices "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

b. Many of you may be unhappy in your marriage simply because you are selfish.

c. Are you still in the emotional level of your high school son or daughter?

✓C. Another factor which causes failure in marriage is unfair or harsh criticism.

1. When one or both partners to a marriage fall into the habit of criticizing or looking for something wrong, the marriage is in trouble. None of us are above criticism.

2. Isn't it strange that two people who have been married for some time, saw so many wonderful things in each other at one time, and fell in love, do nothing but criticize now. (I know a woman who is always criticizing her husband.) Cf. Prov. 21:9.

3. Criticism tends to make one self-righteous and leads to self-pity.

D. Sometimes marriages fail because one or both partners are torn asunder by inner conflicts.

1. They are not at conflict with each other, but with themselves. Their unhappiness makes their partner unhappy.

2. More Christians need to spend more time studying the Beatitudes, the perfect pattern for mental health. Mt. 5:1-13.

E. Another reason for failure is lack of trust in each other.

1. Husbands and wives must learn to trust each other.

2. A marriage is heading for complete failure if jealousy and mistrust are a part of it.

F. Some marriages fail because of financial problems.

1. The young groom does not make as much as his bride thought he would and she can't buy what she is used to or wants.

2. Young couples overspend themselves and when there is no money for the bills tempers flare.

G. Some marriages fail because husband and wife are not one in Christ.

1. In such a marriage the two cannot even share the most important part of their life.

2. Even though such marriages are relatively happy, would anyone say they are ideal?

3. But if you do marry out of the church, out of Christ, live as God teaches. 1 Pet. 3:1,2; 1 Cor. 7.

H. Some marriages fail because the husband does not love the wife as Christ loved the church. Eph. 5:25.

1. Christ loved the church in spite of her weaknesses. So are husbands to love their wives. You didn't marry a perfect person.

2. Christ loved the church sacrificially.

3. Christ loved the church absolutely.

I. Some marriages fail because wives do not submit to the leadership of the husbands. Eph. 5:22.

1. A husband cannot be a leader if a wife will not submit.

2. No woman wants a "hen-pecked" husband because she cannot respect him and therefore cannot love him.

J. Some marriages fail because they are mixed marriages.

(1. Define mixed marriages.

(2. mention different kinds as time permits)

Marriage - Why It Fails So Often

No. 3

Introduction.

1. Marriages that fail are not confined to those that end in divorce.
 - (a) A marriage fails when it is not what God would have it to be.
 - (b) God intends for men and women to enjoy life to its fullest in their marriage (cf. Prov. 5:15-21)
2. Some marriages are not succeeding, but merely surviving.
 - (a) The two people in marriage are not enjoying each other, but merely enduring each other. About 1987 Psychology Today released a survey of 351 couples who had been married 15 years. When asked to explain why their marriages had succeeded the men and women showed remarkable agreement on the enduring relationship. The first seven reasons were identical for both husbands and wives (they were asked separately):
 - (1) My spouse is my best friend. This is essential.
 - (2) I like my spouse as a person.
 - (3) Marriage is a long term commitment.
 - (4) Marriage is sacred.
 - (5) We agree on aims and goals.
 - (6) My spouse has grown more interesting.
 - (7) I want the relationship to succeed.
 - (b) What is the greatest word in marriages that succeed.
 - (1) Most people would immediately say "love".
 - (2) But the great word is "us", "we", "our", etc.
3. In this lesson let's consider:

Discussion.

- I. Marriages Are Failing.
 - A. Basically marriages fail people because the persons involved in them fail.
 1. Inadequate persons are involved and those inadequate persons become inadequate partners.
 2. There must be adequate partners to have a happy, successful marriage.
 - B. When two individuals fail as persons in marriage it is because they are not guided by the Bible.
 1. When a marriage fails from the stand of companionship it is due to a failure to heed God's word (Gen. 2:18).
 - a. Some husbands stay away from home as much as possible because there is little to come home to.
 - b. Some wives cringe with fear at the time their husband is due home.
 2. When marriage fails from a physical standpoint it is a failure to heed God's word (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 3. Marriages fail then, not because there is anything wrong with marriage, or because God's instructions are not clearly set forth, but there is something wrong with the two people involved in the

marriage.

- a. They are ignorant of God's purposes, or
- b. They are unwilling to commit themselves to follow God's purposes.

II. What Are Some Factors Involved In Marriages That Fail.

A. First, the failure to understand the commitment which is involved in marriage.

1. "Till death do us part" is practically a permanent, unconditional.
2. The Lord allows only one exception to the "till death do us part". (Mt. 5:32)

B. Second, immaturity is another reason.

1. Less 5 will deal in great detail with this point, but it needs to be mentioned here briefly.
2. During the course of a life-time people pass through several stages of development.
 - a. First, they are children. Period of dependence on others for everything.
 - b. Second, there is a stage in life called adolescence. This is a period of seeking to be independent. They resent authority because they are seeking to find their place as independent individuals.
 - c. Third, the state of maturity is finally reached.
 - (1) One is no longer striking out.
 - (2) He seeks good not only for himself, but for God and others.
 - (3) Some people never mature.
3. Many married people never grow up.
 - a. Some continue to live in the childhood state. "If you don't let me bat first, I'll take my ball and bat and go home."
 - b. Some continue in the adolescent stage. Are you still on the emotional level of a high school boy and girl?
 - c. No one is emotionally mature until he learns to practice "it is more blessed to give than to receive". (Acts 20:35)

C. Third, harsh, unfair criticism causes marriage to fail.

1. When one or both partners in the marriage fall into the habit of criticizing or looking for something wrong, their marriage is in trouble.
2. Isn't it strange that two people who saw so many wonderful characteristics in each other, learned to love each other, but having been married for some time, do nothing but criticize now.
3. Criticism tends to make one self-righteous and leads to self-pity.
4. Don't embarrass one another and criticize one another in the presence of others.

D. Fourth, failure to communicate with one another causes some marriages to fail.

1. Talking to one another is not necessarily communicating with one another.
2. Communicating involves really listening to the other one. Johnny Campbell, an elder at Campbell Street (Jackson, Tenn) and professor at Jackson State Community College, tells about a young lady who came to him one day and says, "You saved my marriage." She explained: "In class a few weeks ago you said we need to learn to listen. As I drove home I realized that I didn't really listen to what my husband said. I do now. He listens to me also. We have learned to communicate."
3. In many cases there is no communicating because there is no talking.
 - a. One woman said, "My husband knows three words."
 - b. E. Ray Jenkins states that "80% of the cases I work with the wife says my husband doesn't talk to me."
 - c. Brother E. Ray Jenkins pictures what happens at most homes in the afternoon. You come in:

WIFE	HUSBAND
(1) Your wife says "hi".	You say "hi".
(2) What do you know?	"Nothing"
(3) Who did you see today?	"Nobody"
(4) What have you heard?	"Nothing"
(5) What have you been doing?	"Nothing"
(6) What do you want for supper?	"I don't care."
(7) Want to go out?	"Don't make any difference."
(8) Where do you want to go?	"You name it."

- E. Fifth, failure to trust each other.
 1. Husband and wives must learn to trust each other.
 2. A marriage is heading for complete failure if jealousy and mistrust are a part of it.
- F. Sixth, some marriages fail because one or both partners are torn asunder by inner conflicts.
 1. They are not at conflict with one another, but with themselves.
 - a. A "civil war" is going on inside.
 - b. People who can't get along with others usually can't get along with themselves.
 2. Failure to tell your companion what they do that bothers you can bring inner conflict.
 3. Trying to change the other person to suit you brings inner conflict.
- G. Seventh, financial problems cause some marriages to fail.
 1. He doesn't make as much money as you thought he would, so you can't buy what you need or want.
 2. Couples overspend themselves and when there is not enough money to pay the bills, tempers flare.

- H. Eighth, some marriages fail because husband and wife are not in Christ.
 - 1. In such a marriage the two people cannot even share the most important part of their life.
 - 2. But if you do marry out of Christ, still live as God would have you live (1 Pet. 3:1-2; 1 Cor. 7:1ff).
- I. Ninth, some marriages fail because they are mixed marriages.
 - 1. A mixed marriage is any marriage in which there are such great differences so as to create special problems.
 - 2. Such differences might be in the realm of religion, size, age, education, background, etc.

Conclusion

- 1. Marriage can be the greatest blessing to mankind.
- 2. Two people should enjoy each other in marriage and should become better people.

Marriage - The Profound Significance of "I Do"

No. 4

Introduction.

1. A number of years ago Brother Thomas Warren wrote a book entitled "*Marriage is For Those Who Love God and One Another*"
2. Preachers, elders and parents, for too long, have failed to give our young people instruction about marriage (even those who have been married for some time need a memory refresher occasionally).
3. Many people go through the marriage ceremony without even realizing to what they are committing themselves.
4. In this study let us consider:

Discussion.

I. Some Mistaken Views About the Marriage Vow.

- A. Some view marriage as no permanent arrangement, but something to gain a selfish end.
 1. This is one reason people marry for so many different reasons (money, popularity, social prestige, etc.).
 2. "If it does not work out, I'll sue him for a lot of money."
- B. Some view the ceremony as a legal trifle that is necessary to legalize physical intimacy.
- C. Some view it as the joining together of two angels, two perfect beings that will never make a mistake and have trouble.
- D. Some view the vow as a trifle that is the business of the two partners alone. If they decide to break the marriage, it is also their business.
- E. Some enter marriage knowing trouble will arise and plan to use it to justify a divorce.

II. Some Matters Which are Involved In the Marriage Vow.

- A. It involves others besides the bride and the groom.
 1. It involves the Lord since he joins those that are eligible to be married (Matt. 19:3-9)
 2. The community and the nation are involved.
 3. It involves the families of the bride and groom.
- B. It involves one committing himself/herself to leave father and mother (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).
 1. Some people that marry still try to remain a part of two households.
 2. Some parents can not give up their "little darlings" and by their continued meddling break up the marriage or cause trouble. I do not always agree with Ann Landers, but in August 19, 1992 she wrote "*Ten Ways to Break Up a Marriage*", which follows:
 - a. When sons or daughters let you know they plan to be married, show open hostility to the person of their choice. After all, marriage means less love and attention for parents, and they have a right to resent it.

- b. Expect your married children to spend every Sunday and holiday at your home. Act hurt if they have other plans.
- c. If your married children have problems with their spouses, encourage them to come home, no matter what. Listen attentively to all complaints and point out additional faults that may have gone unobserved. Remember, single drops of water can wear away a rock if the drops keep falling long enough.
- d. When your married children have financial problems, rush in with the checkbook. If you are having financial problems yourself, borrow, if necessary, but let them know they'll never have to do without anything so long as you are around.
- e. If a married child has a drinking problem, tell him his spouse drove him to it. It will make him feel better. Everyone needs someone to blame.
- f. If your married child gets an opportunity for advancement which takes him to another city, tell him, "Family is more important than money." If he leaves anyway, remind him that God will punish him for breaking one of the Ten Commandments.
- g. If there are grandchildren, smother them with gifts. If the parents object, tell them to keep out of it. After all, grandchildren are to spoil.
- h. If your married child has a difference of opinion with his spouse, get into the act and give them both a sample of your wisdom, born of years of experience. What do THEY know? You've lived!
- i. When your married sons or daughters visit with their children, make a point of how thin and tired the kids look. Get across the message that you don't like the way your beloved grandchildren are being cared for. Ask repeatedly what they eat and why they have so many colds. If a kid breaks a tooth or is injured during play, get all the details and place the blame on lack of parental supervision.
- j. If your son has a button missing from his shirt, say something. Also mention the hole in his sock or the spot on his coat. It will fan the flames of self-pity and could start the final fight that ends in the divorce court.

C. There is some history, involved in the marriage vow.

- 1. It was instituted by the Lord in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:18-24).
- 2. It was honored and guarded by God in the law on Mt. Sinai (Exod. 20:14).
- 3. The Lord upheld marriage (Matt. 5:32).
- 4. Paul declared marriage honorable (Heb. 13:4).

- D. Marriage involves some very serious matters.
1. Excepting the covenant of grace (man's relationship with God), it is the most solemn, serious, intimate and tender union into which human beings can enter.
 2. It is a closer relationship than that of parents and children (Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31)
 3. It involves a decision that will determine one's happiness here and one's eternal destiny.
- E. Marriage involves covenant and commitment. Let's consider some statements of the marriage vow:
1. "I John take this woman."
 - a. It involves a commitment of taking with whatever weaknesses and strengths the other has.
 - b. It involves taking this woman voluntarily.
 2. "To be my lawful wedded wife."
 - a. To be wedded implies oneness (Matt. 19:5).
 - b. To be wedded implies joining (Matt. 19:6).
 3. "Promising before God and in the presence of these witnesses."
 - a. A promise means "an assurance given by one person to another that the former will as will not do a specified act."
 - b. This promise is made in the presence of God and witnesses.
 4. "That I will honor her and love her."
 - a. To honor means to treat with respect and courtesy.
 - b. You are promising to love her as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25).
 5. "And remain with her in sickness and in health in prosperity and in adversity."
 6. "I will keep myself to her, and to her only."
 - a. When you marry your body belongs to your companion (I Cor. 7:4).
 - b. You are not to give your body to anyone else.
 7. "Till death do us part."
 - a. That does not mean "as long as she doesn't cross you" or "as long as we are compatible."
 - b. God hates covenant breakers (Mal. 2:16).
 8. By this vow the husband promises to love, support and protect his wife, and the wife promises to submit to her husband.

Conclusion

1. Husband and wives need to pray every day and read the Bible.
2. Let every husband pray that he may so live that his wife will never regret she married him.
3. Let every wife pray that she may truly be a help-meet to her husband.
4. Let both pray for God's help in making their marriage better.

Introduction.

1. Many people marry who are mature physically, but not mature mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
 - a. Some writers speak of man as having ages. They are: Chronologically, physically, intellectual or mental, and emotional, Spiritual must be added to this.
 - b. One might run into a fellow that is "fifty years old chronologically forty physically, sixty intellectually, fifteen emotionally, and ten spiritually."
 - (1) It has been 50 years since his birth.
 - (2) He has the physical stamina of forty years.
 - (3) His mental development is sixty.
 - (4) He has the emotional development of an adolescent of fifteen.
 - (5) The spiritual development of a ten year old child.
2. All of us are acquainted with immaturity in adults. Likely, all of us have a little in us---call it childishness if you like. We usually have little trouble recognizing immaturity in others, but have difficulty seeing our own faults. Cf. Luke 18:9-14.
3. To overcome immaturity and be happy in our marriage we must be able to recognize it in ourselves.
4. In this study let's consider:

Discussion.

1. SOME WAYS IN WHICH EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY MAY MANIFEST ITSELF.

- A. Emotional Immaturity manifests itself in selfishness.
 1. A child is selfish, wrapped up in himself and cares little about the problems of others.
 2. How many husbands and wives show this mark of immaturity?
 - a. The husband has a hard day at the office and comes home whining and complaining. The wife has labored "like a dog" taking care of the house and four children all day, but he's not interested in her problems.
 - b. The wife can also be immature and when both are, real trouble arises.
- B. Another mark of immaturity is ingratitude.
 1. A little child is not thankful and grateful for what he gets, but takes it for granted.
 2. How many husbands and wives are thankful for what the other one does and even says "thank you" and "I appreciate you."
- C. Another mark of immaturity is the demand to have one's own way.
 1. When a little child does not get his way he will throw a fit or refuse to play.
 2. How many people---husbands and wives included---"throw a fit" to get their way.
 - a. A boss screams at his workers.
 - b. Immature husbands and wives scream at each other and say cutting things.
 - c. Sometimes they will "pout" around. Cf. Ahab. 1 Kgs. 21:1-16.
- D. Another mark of immaturity is to have little or no sense of obligation or responsibility.
 1. A little child feels no particular obligation about the house or to "pull his own weight".
 2. Learning to bear our own burdens as well as helping others bear theirs is a mark of maturity---a part of growing up. Cf. Gal. 6:2,5. "One wife said of her husband: "When he is well he expects to be treated as if he is a king; when he is sick, he expects to be treated as if he is a baby."

E. Another mark of immaturity is the habit of failing to finish what is undertaken.

1. Little children will start one thing, grow tired of it, and turn to something else.

2. Many husbands keep their family in a constant turmoil. They give their wives little sense of stability and security, always jumping from one thing to another, from one job to another.

F. Another mark of immaturity is the inability to meet the conflicts and problems of life with good emotion reaction.

1. A child can be happy until something happens which presents a real problem and then he may react by crying, temper, etc.

2. When immature people get married they meet conflicts with bad emotions. They scream at each other, "fuss and fume", the wife runs home to Mama, the husband slams out of the door and runs to the closest tavern.

3. Mature people react to life's problems with good emotions. Cf. 1 Cor. 14:20.

G. Those who are immature think it is more blessed to receive than it is to give. Acts 20:35.

1. Some people are not interested in giving but in receiving; not interested in what the other wants, but what they want right now.

2. "Why can't we all see that the only way any of us will ever be truly happy is to learn how to bring happiness to others." Cf. Matt. 5:1-13.

H. The immature are also characterized by poor standards of judgment or evaluation.

1. A little child is unhappy if his playmate gets a larger piece of pie; a teenager if his pal has a later model car.

2. Immature people set poor goals for themselves.

a. Some choose as their ideal person one that is anything but ideal. (Moral degenerates of Hollywood, the one that is "cute" or "popular.")

b. Some wives, instead of appreciating a hard-working, faithful Christian husband, become dissatisfied because he is not rich or handsome like one they read about in the magazines.

c. Some husbands, instead of appreciating the godly, hard-working, faithful Christian wife, become dissatisfied because she is not "glamorous" ("cheap") like the latest addition of Hollywood.

I. Another mark of immaturity is to have a poor way of trying to get love or rather I should say, to be loved.

1. The immature companion makes up his or her mind just how the other should act in that situation. "If he loves me he will do thus and so" when such action is no proof of love at all.

a. If he love me he will volunteer to take me home to mother's on the holiday which he will soon have.

b. If she loves me she will do thus and so.

c. The way to get love is to love. 1 Jn. 4:19. Show your love and quit demanding it. No one like to be taken for granted.

II. SOME MARKS WHICH CHARACTERIZE THOSE WHO ARE MATURE.

A. One must have a minimum of intelligence. A mentally retarded person is not an acceptable partner.

B. One must have a minimum of knowledge.

1. The husband must know enough to make a living for his family. 1 Tim. 5:8.

2. The wife must know enough to take care of children and the household in an acceptable manner. 1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:5.

C. Independence is another mark of maturity.

1. Immature people cannot follow the Bible instruction to leave father and mother. Mt. 19:5.

- 1550000
- a. They cannot make decisions for themselves; they cannot assume the responsibilities they should assume; they allow their parents to so interfere in their affairs as to make their marriage unhappy, if not impossible.
 - b. They enter into marriage with the idea that father and mother will still support them. No boy is ready for marriage with such an attitude.
- D. Another mark of maturity is the willingness to try to make the other person happy.
- E. Another mark of maturity is the feeling of gratitude instead of self-pity.
- 1. Immature people feel that they have not received what they have coming to them. They are always afraid that they will give a little more than they receive. They feel sorry for themselves because of something they have missed.
 - 2. Count your blessings one by one. See what your companion, neighbors, brethren, friends, mankind in general, and God has done for you.
- E. The mark of maturity which is fundamental to all the other marks is to be filled with Christian love. 1 Cor. 13:1-8.
- F. Another mark of maturity is having the high goal for human life. Using this life on earth to prepare to be with God in eternity. Phil. 3:13,14.

Conclusion.

Marriage is like a good book. A good book has a goal; it has an aim. A good marriage has a goal; it has an aim. The best marriages have the goal of helping one another to reach heaven. Husbands and wives should help one another to walk the pathway that leads to eternity. This is maturity. This is Christian maturity.

- A. They cannot make decisions for themselves; they cannot assume the responsibilities they should assume; they allow their parents to interfere in their affairs as to make their marriage unhappy, it is not impossible.
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Conclusion

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Introduction.

The Old Testament Scriptures are a part of God's revelation to man and should be recognized as such by everyone. It's a shame that many people do not study the Old Testament and churches, many times, do not include it in their program of teaching.

The Old and New Testaments are so interwoven that it is impossible to understand one without the other. Someone has said "the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; and that the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."

The apostle Paul said in his letter to the Romans (Rom. 15:4) and this statement was made just after he had quoted from the Old Testament. (Psa. 69:9) Paul no doubt anticipated a question as to why he would quote from an old book and not speak a new word as an inspired man. He answers by "telling the Roman brethren that God meant for his people in this age to learn something from the Old Testament--something which we could not learn so well from any other source." (Leslie G. Thomas).

But in this study let us observe:

Discussion.

I. SOME VIEWS AND POSITIONS REGARDING THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES.

- A. One view holds that the Old Testament, along with the New Testament contains God's will for people of this day and time; and that one, therefore, can learn the plan of salvation and his duty in general from a study of that part of God's word.
- B. Another view maintains that since the Old Testament does not contain God's will for people now, it follows as a logical conclusion that the Old Testament Scriptures are of no practical value for us today.
- C. A charge often brought against the church of Christ is that we do not believe in the Old Testament. (Example: A lady of the Methodist Church attended the services one Sunday night at Middleton, Tenn. My lesson that night was from the Old Testament and upon leaving, the lady was heard to say, "I didn't think the church of Christ believed in the Old Testament.")

II. A STANDARD MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

- A. The New Testament is the sole rule of faith and practice for people today. This part of the Bible is the law of Christ and is God's final message to the human race.
 1. God hath in these last days spoken unto us through his Son--Heb. 1:1,2.
 2. No longer to listen to Moses and the prophets--Matt. 17:5.
 3. Great commission to last unto the end of the world--Mt. 28:18-20.
 4. Christ is that prophet like unto Moses which must be heard--Acts 3:22,23.
 5. It's by this law that people of this age will be judged in the last day--Jn. 12:48-50.
- B. The law of Christ as revealed in the New Testament is complete in all details--Rom. 1:16,17; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Jn. 9; Jude 3; Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18,19.
- C. Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, and it is under it that we live today.
 1. The law changed with the priesthood--Heb. 7:12.
 2. Christ is the surety of a better covenant--Heb. 7:18-22.
 3. The first was removed in order to establish the second--Heb. 10:1-10.
 4. The new covenant was made effective after the death of Christ--Heb. 9:15-17.
 5. Disastrous for one to seek justification by the law--Gal. 5:1-4.

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- 4. The new covenant was made effective after the death of Christ-Heb. 8:12-17.
- 5. Disasters for one to seek justification by the law-Gal. 3:1-4.

D. The Old Testament, therefore, cannot be recognized as being authoritative for this age, but the Old Covenant was removed making possible:

1. The bringing together of Jew and Gentile in Christ-Eph. 2:11-16.
2. No one condemned for not keeping the old covenant-Col. 2:14-17.

E. Even though the Old Testament scriptures are not our rule of faith and practice today let us observe the:

Begin III.
NOTE A - III. USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Everytime the word scriptures is mentioned in the Bible it refers to the Old Testament.
- B. Fifty-three times the word scriptures appears in the New Testament and everytime refers to the Old Testament.
- C. "The chief aim of the Old Testament Scriptures was to foretell the coming, work, and character of Jesus, that sinners by the fulfillment might be taught to believe in Jesus as the Christ." (David Lipscomb.)
- D. Jesus quoted the Old Testament scriptures-Mt. 21:42; 22:29; Lk. 24:27.
- E. The Bereans were commended for examining the scriptures daily-Acts 17:11.
- F. Philip preached Jesus unto the eunuch from the Old Testament scriptures-Acts 8:35.
- G. Paul endeavored to strengthen the faith of the Corinthians by proving that Christ's death, burial and resurrection were according to the scriptures-1 Cor. 15:1-4.
- H. No man can understand the book of Hebrews, as well as other passages, without studying the Old Testament.

IV. WHAT USE SHOULD BE MADE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES TODAY?

- A. They should be regarded as the greatest of all records of former times.
 1. They contain the oldest and only true account of the world and the origin of man-Gen. 1:1, 26, 27.
 2. They reveal the methods which God has used in dealing with man in time past.
- B. They should be used as evidence of the divinity of Christ. A. 18:28-
 1. Philip recognized him as the one spoken of by Moses and the prophet-Jn. 1:45.
 2. Jesus said he fulfilled all the things "written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me." Lk. 24:44.
 3. All the prophets bore witness of him-Acts 10:43.
 4. The scriptures testified of him-Jn. 5:39.
- C. They should be studied for their types and shadows-Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:16, 17.
- D. They should be regarded as exemplifying the principles of righteousness, for example:
 1. Faith, the example of Abraham.
 2. Patience, the example of Job.
 3. Purity, the examples of Joseph and Daniel.
 4. Courage, the example of Elijah.
- E. They should be considered as a warning of the consequences of disobedience-Heb. 2:1-4; 10:26-31; 1 Cor. 10:1-13.

Conclusion.

A careful study of the Old Testament will reveal two lessons supremely practical to us today. They are:

1. God always blessed and rewarded those who obeyed him.
2. He always condemned and punished those who disobeyed him.

Such learning is of great benefit as it will teach us to take God at his word; comfort and encourage us on that we may keep and maintain our hope unto the end.

(over)

Helps Used:

1. McGarvey's Class Notes, Vol. 2, Thomas, pp. 124-126.
2. The New Testament Church, Roy E. Cogdill, pp. 21, 22.
3. Questions Answered, Lipscomb and Sewell, pp. 467-469.
4. Commentary on New Testament Epistles, Romans, Lipscomb and Shepherd.
5. New Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Romans, R.L. Whiteside.
6. Several other sources consulted.

Introduction.

1. The mistakes that this business man made ~~is~~ the same mistakes that business men are making today, not only them, but many other individuals.
2. Many business men in this town and throughout country, thus an explanation of business men not needed.
3. There are and have been many successful business men from the world's standpoint. (John D. Rockefeller, *Tom Morgan*) but failures from God's standpoint.
4. Read and study the account together--Luke 12:13-21.

Discussion.

- I. SOME QUALITIES OF THIS BUSINESS MAN.
 - A. He was rich--Luke 12:16.
 1. Not wrong to have money and possessions (Abraham) but "love of money."--1 Tim. 6:10.
 2. Riches give power to do good--Mt. 27:57.
 - B. Money was made honestly as far as we know--"The ground...brought forth plentifully."
 - C. He was successful--Had accumulated much wealth and was wanting to accumulate more.
 - D. He was a good moral man, but a "fool." Luke 12:20.
- II. SOME MISTAKES THIS BUSINESS MAN MADE.
 - A. He left God out of his plans.
 1. He gave himself credit for everything he had--"My" "I" used 12 times.
 2. He made plans for the future without considering God--Luke 12:19. James 4:13-15.
 3. He, like many today, didn't have room for God--True from the beginning--Luke 2:7.
 - B. He put his trust in the treasures of this life--Luke 12:18,19. He didn't realize that:
 1. The treasures of this world soon vanish away--Job is an example of this--Job 1:1ff.
 - a. Job could still trust in God when treasure were gone.
 - b. Many people commit suicide when treasure gone--(Stock market fall is an example)
 2. The treasures of this world are deceitful and uncertain--Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:17.
 3. The treasures of this world are perishable--Matt. 6:19,20; John 6:27; 1 John 2:15-17.
 4. The treasures of this world must be left behind--Luke 12:20; Psal. 39:6; Eccles. 2:18,19; Job 1:21; 1 Tim. 6:7.
 5. If a man gain all the treasures of this world and lose his soul he is a complete failure--Matt. 16:26.
 - C. He thought he had a lease on life.
 1. He evidently thought that the more he had the longer his life would be lengthened. Jesus taught differently--Luke 12:15b. (He, like many today, was so busy making a living he didn't think about dying.)
 2. Life is uncertain--Psal. 39:4; James 4:14.
 3. Death is appointed to all men--Heb. 9:27.
 - D. He was a covetous man and selfish.
 1. This man, like all covetous men, did not want more to be able to enjoy it, but to be able to say he had it--Luke 12:18.
 2. He was greedily looking out for himself and was not concerned about others.

Conclusion.

1. Let us learn:
 - a. That a man and woman may be rich and yet a failure.
 - b. That a man that is laying up treasure in this life and making none for the future is a fool.
 - c. That true treasures are in heaven--Luke 12:21.

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I. SOME QUALITIES OF THIS BUSINESS MAN.

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29. Many business men in this town and throughout country, thus an explanation of business men not needed.
30. Many business men in this town and throughout country, thus an explanation of business men not needed.
31. The mistakes that this business man made are the same mistakes that business men are making today, not only them, but many other individuals.
32. Introduction.

Introduction.

1. If a doctor knows of an illness of a patient which will eventually take the patient's life unless corrected, he is not a good doctor unless he does all he can to get the situation corrected.
2. If a minister knows of a prevalent sin which will eventually cause many members of the church to be lost eternally unless that sin is corrected, he is not a good minister unless he does all he can to get that situation corrected. *Cf. 1 Tim. 4:6*
3. Human nature today is still much the same as it was in early New Testament times. Like the rich young ruler (**Luke 18**) people still have difficulty in deciding that the Maker of all this world's good is more important than the goods.
4. Have you had trouble paying your bills lately? How have you gone about solving the problem? (Many cut down on their contribution). Did you know you can increase your income? How much are you giving to the Lord? Have you checked your giving lately?
5. The Bible is truly a book on giving. More than 1600 times it is mentioned in the Bible, more than repentance, confession, and baptism put together. The Bible itself is a gift (**2 Tim. 3:16,17**) and begins with God giving (**Gen. 1**) and ends with God giving (**Rev. 21**).
6. Although it is more blessed to give than receive, many are not giving as they could and must to please God. There are many things that should move and prompt us to give more to God.

Discussion.I. THE EXAMPLES OF OTHERS.

- A. It is scriptural and right to use the examples of others to move us.
 1. Paul used the Macedonians as an example to the Corinthians. **2 Cor. 8:1.**
 2. Paul used the Corinthians as an example to the Macedonians. **2 Cor. 9:1,2.**
 3. The Israelites are used as examples for us. **1 Cor. 10:6,11.**
- B. Abraham gave his son. **Gen. 22:1-12.** (Emphasize verse 12).
- C. The children of Israel gave freely to build the tabernacle.
 1. God's command for them to give. **Ex. 25:1,2.**
 2. The people had to be stopped from giving. **Ex. 36:5-7.**
- D. David refused to give that which cost him nothing. **2 Sam. 24:18-25.**
 1. That which the poor widow gave cost her something. **Mk. 12:41-44.**
 2. That which the Macedonians gave cost them something. **2 Cor. 8:1-5.**
 - a. They gave under unfavorable circumstances. **5:2a.** "much affliction"---"deep poverty".
 - b. Though afflicted and poor they gave largely. **5:3a.**
 - (1) They asked how much?
 - (2) Many today: "How little?"
 - c. They gave voluntary. **5:3b.** (They were willing and ready).
 - d. They begged for the privilege (not a burden) to give. **5:4.** Cf. **20:35**
 - e. They gave with joy. **5:2.**
 - f. The secret: "first gave their own selves." **5:5.**
 3. Does that which you and I give to the Lord cost us anything? Or does God get the scraps?
- E. God gave his only begotten son. **Jn. 3:16.**
- F. Christ gave all.
 1. The riches and glory of heaven. **2 Cor. 8:9.**
 2. He gave his life. **Jn. 10:18.**
- G. The apostles gave all. **Mt. 19:27; Phil. 3:7,8.**

H. The Christians in Jerusalem gave the price of their possessions they sold. **Acts 4:34,35.**

II. ANOTHER THING THAT SHOULD MOVE US TO GIVE MORE IS THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING.

A. Man will always reap what he sows. **Gal. 6:7,8.**

B. Man will always reap according to the amount he sows. **2 Cor. 9:6.**

III. GOD'S PROMISE TO BLESS US ABUNDANTLY IF WE GIVE ABUNDANTLY.

A. God challenged Israel to prove him by their giving. **Mal. 3:8-10.**

(This promise was made at a time when Israel was giving God the left-overs.)

B. God promises to bless us just as abundantly today---both materially and spiritually.

1. All needs assured to those that put his kingdom first. **Mt. 6:33.**

2. Temporal increase as well as spiritual promised to all that are willing to pay the price. **Mt. 19:27-29; Mk. 10:28-30.**

3. All sufficiency in all things promised to bountiful givers. **2 Cor. 9:8,10. Cf. 1 Tim. 4:7,8.**

IV. TO PROVE OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD AND DESIRE TO DO HIS WORK.

A. Christ proved his love by his giving. **2 Cor. 8:9.**

B. We prove our love by our giving. **2 Cor. 8:8,24.**

C. Giving in love and a desire to do the Lord's work will result in glory to his great name. **2 Cor. 9:12,13.**

V. A DESIRE FOR TREASURES IN HEAVEN. **Mt. 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19.**

VI. A DESIRE TO SEE THE LOCAL CONGREGATION'S PROGRAM OF WORK GO FORWARD.

A. Such a desire will cause each one to sacrifice a little more.

B. Such a desire will keep us keenly conscious of responsibility at home even when we are away on Sunday.

Conclusion.

Let us freely give to the Lord. This will be no problem if we have given ourselves to the Lord (**2 Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1,2**) and Christ is living in us. (**Gal. 2:20**) The problem in giving is not so much "how to get the money" but "how to get the man."

1. Desire to obey God. **Mt. 7:21; Jas. 2:10; 4:17**
2. A means of spiritual development
3. Proof of love. **2 Cor. 8:8,9; Jn. 14:21; 1 Jn. 5:3**
4. To provide means for carrying on the Lord's work. **1 Cor. 9:13,14; 16:2.**

Marriage – The Profound Significance of “I Do”

Some Mistaken Views About the Marriage Vow

Some view Marriage as no permanent arrangement, but something to gain a selfish end.

Some view the ceremony as a legal trifle that is necessary to legalize physical intimacy

Some view it as the joining together of two angels, two perfect beings that will never make a mistake or have trouble.

Some Mistaken Views About the Marriage Vow

Some view the vow as a trifle that is the business of the two partners alone. If they decide to break the marriage, it is also their business

Some enter marriage knowing trouble will arise and plan to use it to justify a divorce.

Some Matters Which are Involved In the Marriage Vow

It involves others besides the bride and the groom

It involves one committing himself/herself to leave father and mother (Gen. 2:24; Matt 19: 5; Eph. 5:31)

There is some history involved in the marriage vow

Some Matters Which are Involved In the Marriage Vow

Marriage involves some very serious matters

Marriage involves covenant and commitment.

Let's consider some statements
of the marriage vow:

"I John take this woman."

"To be my lawful wedded wife."

"Promising before God and in the
presence of these witnesses."

Let's consider some statements
of the marriage vow:

"That I will honor and love her."

"And remain with her in sickness and in
health in prosperity and in adversity."

" I will keep myself to her, and to her only."

Let's consider some statements
of the marriage vow:

"Till death do us part."

By this vow the husband promises to love,
support and protect his wife, and the wife
promises to submit to her husband.

AGES OF MAN

Ages Of Man

- Chronological – 50 years since his birth
- Physical – Has the physical stamina of 40 years
- Mental – Mental development is 60
- Emotional – Emotional development of an adolescent of fifteen
- Spiritual – Spiritual development of a 10 year-old child.

Some Ways In Which Spiritual & Emotional Immaturity May Manifest Itself

- Emotional immaturity manifests itself in selfishness.
- Another mark of immaturity is ingratitude.
- Another mark of immaturity is the demand to have one's own way.
- Another mark of immaturity is to have little or no sense of obligation of responsibility.

Some Ways In Which Spiritual & Emotional Immaturity May Manifest Itself

- Another mark of immaturity is the habit of failing to finish what is undertaken.
- Another mark of immaturity is the inability to meet the conflicts and problems of life with good emotional reaction
- Those who are immature think it is more blessed to receive than it is to give (Acts 20:35).

Some Ways In Which Spiritual & Emotional Immaturity May Manifest Itself

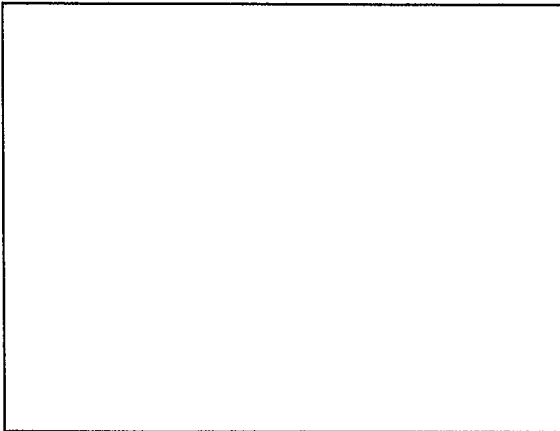
- The immature are also characterized by poor standards of judgment or evaluation.
- Another mark of immaturity is to have a poor way of trying to get love or rather I should say, to be loved.

Some Marks Which Characterize
Those Who Are Mature

- One Must have a minimum of intelligence.
- One must have a minimum of knowledge.
- Independence is another mark of maturity
- Another mark of maturity is the willingness to try to make the other person happy.

Some Marks Which Characterize
Those Who Are Mature

- Another mark of maturity is the feeling of gratitude instead of self-pity.
- The mark of maturity which is fundamental to all the other marks is to be filled with Christian love.
- Another mark of maturity is having the high goal for human life. Using this life on earth to prepare to be with God in eternity (Phil. 3:13, 14)



Introduction.

1. We all love new things. Children love new clothes, new shoes and new toys. Adults admire new cars and new houses.
2. What is the world's greatest need?
 - a. The business man says more business; the politician says more skilled politicians; the general says more preparation in the field of armour; etc.
 - b. The world's greatest need is new creatures.
3. Study the contents of this great verse with me. *Consider the word "therefore" - Look at 2 Cor. 5:13-16 as background*

Discussion.I. "IF".

- A. Many people offer lots of "ifs" and "ands" about Christianity.
 1. If one could believe what he desires and do what he wants to and still be a Christian, there would be many more Christians.
 2. If it was impossible to backslide there would be more faithful Christians, but . . . **Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22.**
 3. If one could be saved by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit there would be no need of gospel preaching, but . . . **Rom. 10:13-17.**
 4. If the branch could bear fruit apart from the vine one could be saved out of the church, out of Christ, but . . . **Jn. 15:1-5.**
- B. The little word "if" plays a very prominent part in Christianity as it introduces conditions. **Col. 1:21-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.**

II. "ANY MAN".

- A. "Any" suggests that Christianity is universal in scope.
 1. Many would like to think that God is a national god. **Cf. 1 Kgs. 20:22-28.**
 2. The great invitation is to all. **Mt. 11:28-30.**
 3. The great commission included every creature. **Mt. 28:18,19,20; Mk. 16:15,16.**
 4. Peter recognized that God included all. **Acts 10:34,35.**
- B. "Any" suggests that man has the power to come after the Lord if he will. **Lk. 14:26,27.**

III. "BE IN CHRIST."

- A. The words "in Christ" and "in Jesus Christ" appear 55 times in the New Testament; 54 times in Paul's epistles
- B. In Christ:
 1. Is a sphere of freedom. **Rom. 8:1,2.** The one in Christ is no longer bound by sin, but free from the law of sin and death. "When Eliza, the slave-mother in Uncle Tom's Cabin, finds that she is sold to a new owner who is going to separate her from her child, she makes a desperate effort to escape. She has been sold in Kentucky; if she can get into Ohio she will be under other laws, and her child will be her own. She slips away from the inn where the sale has been transacted down to the river bank. But there is no boat to take her across! She hides in terror till she hears the hounds bay- ing on her track. Then, with the courage of despair, she leaps out on the floating ice floes in the river; she passes from one to another, her child in her arms, her feet cut and bleeding, till she is almost across the river; then as she nears the other shore a stranger who has watched her flight reaches out a hand and she lands in safety---a free woman. The laws that bound her do not run here. They have ceased to have any authority over her." (Great Texts, Vol. 16, p. 169)
 2. Is a sphere of work. **Rom. 16:3,9.** A work of bringing others to Christ.
 3. In Christ is a clean, sweet, ordered, simple life. **1 Tim. 2:7.**

4. One is in the kingdom. Col. 1:13.
5. One has redemption. Col. 1:14.
6. One has all spiritual blessings. Eph. 1:3.
7. One has salvation. 2 Tim. 2:10.
8. One is a new creature and only in Christ. (Text) Gal. 6:15;
Eph. 2:10.

IV. "HE IS A NEW CREATURE."

- A. Because he has experienced a new birth. Jn. 3:3,5; 1 Pet. 1:22,23.
- B. Because he has put off the old things (old man) and put on the new things (new man). Text. Eph. 4:22-32.
- C. Being a new creature:
 1. He wears a new name. Isa. 62:2; Acts 11:26.
 2. He has a new standing before God. Whereas he once stood at a great distance he is now close. Acts. 2:39; Eph. 2:13.
 3. He enjoys a new relationship with God.
 - a. We were once aliens, separated from God. Eph. 2:12.
 - b. But now fellow-citizens and sons. Eph. 2:19.
 4. He has entered upon a new way of life. Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 3:1-3; Gal. 2:20.
 - a. Have a new attitude toward our enemies. Mt. 5:43,44.
 - b. Have a new attitude toward our neighbor. Mt. 22:39.
 - c. Have a new speech. Col. 4:6.
 - d. Have a new way to spend the Lord's day. Heb. 10:25.

Conclusion.

1. A Christian has a new outlook on life. Paul, before conversion, looked on Christ after the flesh, but now his view has changed because he is a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:16,17.
2. A Christian has a new view of death. Rev. 14:13.

Introduction.

1. Did you know the Supreme Court passed a law to close the doors of all the churches? (Pause) No, the statement is not true, but just how bothered would many Christians be if it were true? And have not some Christians already voted to do this very thing?
2. Reading the book of Amos is like reading a modern day newspaper or being confronted with modern day problems.
3. Amos prophesied about the year 750 B.C. to northern Israel (ten tribes)
 - a. Jeroboam II began to reign in 783 B.C. and built Israel into a strong political power.
 - b. Uzziah began to reign over Judah about the same time and likewise, built Judah into a strong power.
4. The social conditions of the time were rotten indeed. It was a period of excessive luxury (Amos 3:15); the poor and the needy were oppressed while the women cried for their lords to bring them more to drink (4:1); justice was turned to wormwood (5:7); bribes were taken (5:11,12); and corruption in general prevailed.
5. The religious condition of the time was one that God hated (5:21); there was an abundance of religion but it was not coupled with justice and righteousness (5:22-24); the people met, sang and played, gave sacrifices and tithes often, but it was what pleased them (4:4,5).
6. God sent warning after warning to them, but no repentance. Famine (4:6); drouth (4:7,8); blasting and mildew (4:9); pestilence (4:10); overthrow of some of their cities (4:11), yet "have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord (4:11).
7. God sent his prophets to them, but they wouldn't listen to the message (7:10-17).
8. Finally God lays a plumbline to Israel and says "I will not again pass by them any more." (7:8). He warns that he would send:

Discussion.

- I. "A FAMINE IN THE LAND." Amos 8:11.
 - A. Famine: (1) General scarcity of food; destitution. (2) Extreme scarcity of something. (Webster)
 - B. It was not to be a "famine of bread, nor a thirst for water." 8:11a.
 1. A famine of bread and water is a terrible thing, but it has to do with the body only. Gen. 43:1; 47:13.
 2. The famine at the overthrow of Jerusalem was a terrible thing and similar occasions.
 - C. It was to be a famine "of hearing the words of the Lord." 8:11b.
 1. This is the worst kind of famine as it has to do with the soul of man which is far more precious than the body. Mt. 10:28; 16:26; 4:4.
 2. Such a famine came:
 - a. On king Saul and his deepest long remained unsatisfied. 1 Sam. 28:6.
 - b. The Psalmist speaks of such a condition. Psa. 74:9.
 - c. There was a famine of hearing God's word during the Dark Ages.
 3. When God sends such a famine upon people they may seek everywhere but shall not find it. 8:12; Lam. 2:9; Ezek. 7:26.
- II. WHY DID GOD SEND SUCH A FAMINE UPON ISRAEL?
 - A. Because of their manner of life.
 1. They selected an easy prey to mistreat--the "poor" and "needy." 8:4.
 2. They hankered after Sabbath day trade. 8:5a. "They are making markets mentally in the very house of God, and, with the words of worship on their lips, 'their heart goes after covetousness.' From

Sunday devising to Sunday-transacting of business the step is but a small one--too small not to be taken when opportunity and temptation meet." (Pul. Com., Vol. 14, p. 161)

3. They practiced unfair dealing. **8:5.**

4. They trafficked in human life for a small price. **8:6.**

B. Because of their attitude toward God's word.

1. They had God's word. **mos. 3:1; 4:1; 7:14-17.**

2. They did not appreciate God's word. (Most of us fail to really appreciate something until it is taken from us--bodily health, political freedom, religious freedom. Prodigal son didn't appreciate what he had until he was without it. **Lk. 15).**

3. They despised and rejected the word of God. **Amos 7:12,13; Isa. 5:24. Cf. Psal. 107:11.**

4. They had rather do other things than to listen to and obey God's word.

a. They were doing what they liked to do even in their worship.

Amos 4:5.

b. They were enjoying themselves and not "grieved for the affliction of Joseph." **Amos 6:1-6.**

III. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE GAIN FROM THIS WARNING?

A. These things that happened unto them are examples to help us. **Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6,11.**

B. Just as Israel had God's word, so we have the gospel, the word of God.

1. It is by that word men are sanctified. **Jn. 17:17.**

2. It is the power by which men are saved. **Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21.**

3. It is the message which furnishes man completely. **2 Tim. 3:16,17.**

4. It is God's final message to man. **Heb. 1:1; Jude 3.**

C. Do we, like Israel of old, fail to appreciate the word of God and what it means to us?

1. Some members of the church were up in the air about the decision of the Supreme Court regarding Bible reading in the school, but some of those same people never study their Bible at home or in Bible classes.

2. Some members of the church don't appreciate God's word enough to even study their lesson before coming to class. (People in some countries are begging for a Bible. How little excuse we will have.)

D. Do we, like Israel of old, despise and reject God's word?

1. "No, I would never do a thing like that" says one.

2. But when one refuses to do what it says he despises and rejects God's word. **Heb. 10:25-29.**

3. **1 Thess. 5:20; Lk. 10:16.**

E. Are we, like Israel of old, allowing other things to keep us from studying and obeying God's word? **2 Tim. 3:1-4.**

1. Some had rather watch television on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

2. Some are busy making excuses and some tell the truth--"I just don't want to come." (An elder of the church told me this once.)

Conclusion.

1. How terrible the thought to ever be without the word of God in our life. Yet a failure to use that we have can bring such a result (**Mt. 13:12**) and failing to live according to what we now know. (**Phil. 3:16**). **God does not continually cast his pearls before swine. Mt. 7:6.**

2. We must not allow the god of this world to blind us to the truth (**2 Cor. 4:4**)

YOURS CAN BE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Yours Can Be A Successful Marriage

- By a successful marriage, I do not mean those that merely avoid divorce. A successful marriage is “one which reaches the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels which God would have a marriage to reach.”
- There is great value gained from a successful marriage.
 - The lives of the marriage partners will be intensely enriched which enables them to enrich other lives.
 - When relationships in the home are improved, the relationship between the home and the church is improved.

Yours Can Be A Successful Marriage

- In five previous lessons we have noted:
 - Why study marriage (2 lessons)
 - The profound significance of the marriage vow.
 - Why marriages fail
 - Marriage is not for the immature.
- In this lesson I propose:
 - To tie together some matters already studied.
 - Add some new thoughts
 - To set forth some ingredients of a successful marriage;
 - To note some things that both husband and wife can do to make their marriage successful

Both Bride and Groom Should Recognize That Christian Character Is the True Basis for a Successful Marriage

- Just as one cannot build a strong house out of rotten wood so one cannot build a successful marriage out of people of poor character.
- Each one coming to take the marriage vows should bring a pure mind and pure body. (I Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19)
 - There is no double standard of morality
 - You cannot bring a pure mind and pure body to the altar if you associate with people of low morals and low standards.(I Corinthians 15:33)

I Corinthians 3:16, 17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in You? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 6:19

19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

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1 Corinthians 15

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Both Bride and Groom Should Recognize That Christian Character Is the True Basis for a Successful Marriage

- **To have Christian character one must become a Christian, a child of God; more than just becoming religious. (Matt. 7:21; John 3:3,5; Acts 2:41, 47)**
- **One must become an active, faithful child of God. "Divorce is unknown where both partners are faithful Christians."**

Matthew 7

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

John 3

- 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**
- 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

Malachi 2

- 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.
- 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.
- 16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Married Couples Must Learn How to Handle Properly Their Financial Affairs

- It means learning to live within your income.
- It means you do not have to buy everything you see or everything you want.
- It means giving God proper place in your financial affairs – FIRST.

Married Couples Should Avoid the Little Quarrels

- Many husbands and wives quarrel over things of little importance.
- Most of the big quarrels stem from the little ones

Married Couples Should Fight for Each Other, Not Against

- Husband and wife have become one in the battle against the world
- If you do criticize each other, do not do it before others and before your children. It is best to avoid it.

Husband and Wife Should Do Things Together

- It is good to do things with your children – it builds family unity.
- But it is also good to do things – just husband and wife – away from others.

Married Couples Must Learn to Compromise on Things That Do Not Really Matter – Give and Take

- Do not be afraid to admit your companion has a better idea.
- Do not be ashamed to apologize and say “I’m sorry.” How many marriages have failed, because false pride kept one companion from saying, “I’m sorry.”

Conclusion

- Do you want your marriage to be successful?
- Do you want to grow in your relationship with your partner?
- Then how much are you willing to work at it?

Introduction.

- (see just before)*
1. After Jesus had made his triumphal entry he came to Bethany where he was given a supper. **Jn. 12:1,2.**
 2. Those present were:
 - a. The Lord.
 - b. Simon who had been cured of leprosy and in whose house the supper was. **Mk. 14:3.**
 - c. Lazarus who had been raised from the dead.
 - d. Martha who did the serving. **Jn. 12:2.**
 - e. Mary who anointed the Lord. **Jn. 12:3.**
 - f. Judas who betrayed the Lord.
 - g. Peter who denied the Lord.
 - h. The other apostles.
 3. On the occasion of the supper Mary took a pound of spikenard and anointed the Lord's head and feet. She was rebuked by Judas (and other) but praised by the Lord. (Text)
 4. From this account let us notice many valuable lessons.

Discussion.

I. THE CHARACTER OF MARY'S NOBLE ACT.

- A. It was a humble act.
 1. Mary sat at Jesus' feet to be taught. **Lk. 10:38,39.**
 2. Mary fell at his feet to receive consolation. **Jn. 11:32.**
 3. Mary is now at his feet in an expression of devotion, love and humility.
 4. Let us fall at the Lord's feet with the humility of Mary. **Psa. 51:17; Jas. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:5,6; Heb. 4:14-16**
 - B. It was an act prompted by thankfulness.
 1. Three and half years with the Lord had failed to arouse gratitude in Judas.
 2. Mary understood that love from heaven expressed in deeds of might and mercy must be returned in the form of gratitude. *cf. Phil. 4:1; Col. 3:15*
 - C. It was an act that was stately and splendid in its lavishness.
 1. Mary's devotion was unrestrained in its expression.
 - a. The alabaster box was very costly but she broke it. **Mk. 14:3.**
 - b. The ointment of spikenard was hard to obtain and very expensive. Estimates for the cost of a pound range from \$45 to \$400. *(A resin from pine nard which is an aromatic herb grown in the high pasture land of the Himalayas, between India & Tibet, costly to obtain.)*
 2. Love is never willing to bestow on the object of its affection that which cost nothing.
 - a. David refused to offer unto God "that which doth cost me nothing." **2 Sam. 24:24.**
 - b. Mary did not stop to consider the cost of what she bestowed on Jesus.
 - c. How we need to be more like Mary in our devotion to the Lord.
 - D. It was an act that was beautiful in its timeliness.
 1. Simon who had been cured of leprosy was present.
 2. Lazarus who had been raised from the dead was there.
 3. Jesus, about to enter the deep waters and dark night of the Passion Week, was there.
 4. Now was the time for Mary's noble act.
 - a. Joseph and Nicodemus did a wonderful thing but waited until the Lord was crucified. **Jn. 19:38,39.**
 - b. Let us be more like Mary in embracing our opportunities as they arise and not wait until they are past. *Bestow flowers now!*
- Be good now!*

E. It was an act that brought out the sharp contrast between the character of Mary and Judas. (Jn. 12:3-6)

1. Mary was the embodiment of self-sacrifice; Judas of selfishness.
2. Mary expressed her feeling in a costly gift; Judas by cheap sarcasm.
3. Mary took the place of a servant of Jesus; Judas constituted himself a critic.

4. Mary has been remembered for her loyalty; Judas as a traitor.

II. THE EVALUATION OF MARY'S NOBLE ACT.

A. Judas (and some of the others) said: "To what purpose was this waste?" Mt. 26:8.

1. To Judas anything bestowed on the Lord was waste.
2. To many today all time, money and effort bestowed on the Lord and in his cause is a waste. *Spiritual deeds are a waste to an unspiritual person.*
3. But to the Lord all treasure bestowed on Him is not waste, but the only real treasure. Mt. 6:19,20.

B. Jesus said:

1. "She hath wrought a good work on me." Mk. 14:6.

- a. The Lord considered Mary's act, not a waste, but a "noble deed", a good work.
- b. Good works are a part of the life of every Christian today. Eph. 2:10; Titus. 3:8,14.

2. "She hath done what she could." Mk. 14:8.

- a. Mary could not build a hospital, preach like Paul, sing like angels, but she did what she could.
 - (1) She did what she could at the time she had to do it.
 - (2) She did what she could in the way she had to do it.
 - (3) She did what she could as an expression of gratitude for that which had been done for her.
 - (4) She did what she could for the one worthy of her best.
- b. All men must do what they can. Mt. 25:14-30; 2 Cor. 8:12;
 - (1) Moses did what he could with a rod--he led Israel out of bondage.
 - (2) Samson did what he could with the jawbone of an ass--he slew 1,000 Philistines. Judges 15:15.
 - (3) David did what he could with a sling--he slew Goliath. 1 Sam. 17:50.
 - (4) Andrew could not preach like Peter, but he did what he could--he brought him to Jesus. Jn. 1.
 - (5) The small boy did what could with five loaves and two fishes--he gave them to Jesus. Jn. 6.
 - (6) Dorcas did what she could with a needle--Acts 9--She sewed her name into immortality.

3. "Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Mk. 14:9.

- a. Her deed has become a memorial of her love and service to Jesus.
- b. Mary, like Abel though "being dead yet speaketh." Heb. 11:4.

Conclusion.

The Lord did not praise many individuals by name, but Mary is one that he praised on at least two occasions. When eating in her home Jesus said "Mary hath chosen that good part." (Lk. 10:42) And as long as the world stands the praise heaped on Mary by our Lord--"she hath wrought a good work on me" and "she hath done what she could"--will be preached to men. The world needs more Marys'. Let it be said of us "He hath done what he could."

*"If you cannot sail the ocean,
Sail among the swiftest fleet,
Rocking on the highest billows
Laughing at the storms you meet,*

*you can stand among the sailors
Anchored yet within the bay,
you can lend a hand to help them
as they launch their boats away.
(Great, 1950, Vol. 9,
p. 384-85)*

*If you are too weak to journey,
up the mountain steep & high,
you can stand within the valley, the singing
while the multitudes go by. They are
you can climb in happy measure
as they slowly pass along, the song*

IS GOD'S MARRIAGE LAW BINDING ON THE ALIEN SINNER?

Matt. 19:3-9

INTRODUCTION

1. There is no institution in today's society under more severe attack than marriage.
 - a. The Communists attack it because they believe that individual freedom, the right of free enterprise, and marriage and the family, all ought to be tied together and thrown in the same trash can.
 - b. Many in America attack marriage, live outside the marriage relationship, and believe it is out of date.
2. In this study we propose to study:

DISCUSSION

I. WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

- A. "Marriage is an institution ordained of God for the honor and happiness of mankind, in which one man and one woman enter into a bodily and spiritual union, pledging each to the other's mutual love, honor, fidelity, sympathy, forbearance, and comradeship, such as should assure an unbroken continuance of their wedlock so long as both shall live." (H. Leo Boles)
- B. "Marriage has been defined as the legal union for life of one man and one woman to discharge toward each other and toward the community the duties imposed by law in persons related as husband and wife." (Richard V. Mackay, From "Law of Marriage and Divorce.")
- C. "Marriage is an agreement (a contract) between two eligible parties to take each other in holy matrimony, according to the laws of God and the laws of the land. When I pronounce a couple 'husband and wife they are in fact, at that time, husband and wife.' The physical union is a blessing which comes as a result of marriage. It is not what constitutes the marriage." (Roy Deaver, Your Marriage Can Be Great, p. 93)

II. WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE?

- A. First, it is to propagate the human race. (Gen. 1:28; 9:1)
- B. Second, companionship is to be provided. (Gen. 2:18-25)
- C. Third, it is to prevent immorality. (1 Cor. 5:1-5)
- D. Fourth, it provides responsibilities to both husband (1 Tim. 5:8; Eph. 6:4) and wife. (1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:5)

III. WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO MARRY?

- A. The man or woman who has never been married, and is physically and mentally able to assume the responsibilities of marriage. (1 Cor. 7:2; Eph. 6:1-4; Titus 2:1-4)
- B. The man or woman that has been married and his or her companion is dead. (Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:39)
- C. The man or woman who has been married and his or her companion is guilty of fornication. (Matt. 5:32; 19:9)

IV. WHAT ARE SOME CONTENTIONS ABOUT WHO IS BOUND BY GOD'S MARRIAGE LAW?

- A. First, there are some who contend that people in the world (outside the church) are under civil law exclusively.
 1. "While in the world, people cannot be with or without 'a Scriptural cause' for anything, seeing they are not under Christian law, but under Civil Law exclusively." (E.C. Fuqua, The Vin-dicator, Oct. 1951, p. 6)
 2. "All his law and legislation are exerted in the church, and over its members exclusively; so that the world is in no sense under any law of Christ." (Ibid., p. 5)
 3. "God has placed the World as such under Civil Law exclusively."

- (Ibid)
4. "That being true, nothing done in the world was looked upon as a sin, for it transgressed no law from Him." (Ibid, p. 4)
 5. "Therefore, no specific sins, like fornication, could be levied against people in the world." (Ibid)
 6. "They were not 'living in adultery' in the world, because adultery is a violation of God's specific law; and people in the world are not under any specific law from God. They are not therefore required to repent of any specific sins." (Ibid, p. 3)
 7. The Bible teaches that alien sinner can violate the moral laws of God.
 - a. One cannot violate a law to which one is not amenable. (Rom. 3:19; 4:15)
 - b. Aliens were condemned for violating God's moral laws in Romans 1:24-32
 - c. The Corinthians were sinners when they were aliens but they were guilty of adultery, fornication, etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
 - d. Paul condemned the heathen for living in the lusts of the flesh because it was contrary to God's law. (Eph. 2:1-3)
 8. "The doctrine that the laws of Christ do not apply to all, and that aliens are subject to civil law only, carries with it many disturbing implications." (Roy Weaver)
 - a. There would be no such thing as fornication and adultery since the civil law does not forbid or punish these acts.
 - b. Group marriages of one hundred men and one hundred women with total sexual privileges to all would be moral if the civil law authorized it.
 - c. 'Trial marriages' to see if companions are sexually compatible would be approved of God if the civil law sanctioned it.
 - d. Free love communes with total license would not be wrong.
 - e. Scientific breeding of the human race, like that of livestock, would be allowed.
 - f. Concubinage and polygamy would be permitted if the civil law authorized them.
 - g. Complete freedom to divorce and remarry for any reason would be possible as long as it was recognized by the civil law.
 - h. Homosexuality, lesbianism, and bestiality, violating no law of man, would be legitimate unions.
 - i. All non-Christians would not be married in the eyes of God because God would have absolutely nothing to say to them on anything. Aliens would be merely the same as animals mating in the woods. When the aliens are baptized, would that marry them in God's eyes? Baptism is said to effect a lot of things in the Bible but this doctrine has it even performing marriages! What if one party is a Christian and his spouse is not? Are they married in the eyes of God? Are children born to this union illegitimate?
 - j. So long as one is out of the church, he cannot be guilty of any sin (wrongdoing), except as he may be guilty of violating some civil law.
 - k. The world could never be charged with committing any specific sins. Can aliens violate Gal. 5:19-21?

- (1). An alien could never obey the gospel for he would not be subject to the laws of Christ. Furthermore, how could he become a sinner or enter the world if he cannot violate God's law?
 - (a) Is one born a sinner?
 - (b) Is it a violation of the civil law that makes me a sinner?
 - (c) Is it a violation of the law of God?
 - (d) Or just what?

9. Objections:

- a. "Baptism takes away all sins."
 - (1) It is true that all sins are washed away by the blood of Christ in baptism but baptism does not turn a sinful act into a rightful relationship.
 - (2) Could a man running a house of prostitution keep running the house of prostitution?
- b. "Paul says (1 Cor. 7:20) that a man should abide in his calling in which he was called."
 - (1) What if a man had ten wives when he was called?
 - (2) What if a man was involved in a homosexual marriage when called?
 - (3) Paul is teaching one may remain in a legitimate relationship, but not a wrong one.
- c. "What about the home and the children?"
 - (1) This is of course an objection geared to arouse the emotions.
 - (2) No one with the compassion of Christ can fail to be touched with this objection but one can break up an unlawful sexual relationship without throwing the children out in the cold or breaking up the home.
 - (3) Are polygamous marriages sinful? Should they be broken up? What about the children here?
 - (4) What if a Mormon had five wives? Would he have to give them up if he became a Christian?
 - (5) In Indonesia, a Moslem can have, legally, five wives. Would he have to break up this polygamous relation if he became a Christian?

10. Syllogisms:

- a. Major Premise: All men who violate the law of Christ are men who are subject to the law of Christ.
 - b. Minor Premise: Men in the world are men who have violated the law of Christ.
 - (1) The Athenians were guilty of idolatry (Acts 17:23)
Idolatry is a violation of the law of Christ (Gal. 5:20)
 - (2) The Corinthians were guilty of idolatry before they were washed (baptized)
 - c. Conclusion: Men in the world are men who are subject to the law of Christ.
- B. Second, there are some who contend that alien sinner is under civil law, also under the law of the heart, but not under God's marriage law because it is only for Christians.
1. "This is the basic argument in my book, i.e., that Christ's legislation in His personal ministry was for those in his covenant who were married to one another. Therefore, it is unscriptural for us to extend it to include mixed marriages (Paul did not), or to marriages to two people outside the covenant." (James Bales, Not Under Bondage, p. 8)

2. "Therefore, we have no right to bind on people in the world the law of Christ, which He bound on two married people who are in His covenant. Once they obey the gospel they come under Christ's law in this matter and they are not to divorce and remarry except for fornication. However, the law of Christ is not retroactive and they do not have to break up their second marriage when they come into Christ even though they had been divorced for some reason other than fornication." (James Bales, Not Under Bondage, p. 10.)

3. God's marriage law is binding on all people.

- a. God gave a universal law in the very beginning of time. Gen. 2:18-24.
- b. John the Baptist told Herod that he had no right to have his brother Philip's wife. Matt. 14:1-9
- c. The argument that Rom. 2:14 becomes the standard of conduct for those outside of Christ removes the need of divine revelation.
- d. If God's marriage law is not binding on the alien sinner, and there is no need of any change after baptism, then what about the Mormon who has more than one wife, or the Moslem who has four.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE1 Cor. 7Introduction

1. Christians in the first century had their problems just as we have ours today. They were just as interested in learning the solution to them as we are.
2. The church at Corinth had many problems which Paul discusses in his letter to them. They had the problems of division, sin in the church, brother going to law against brother, marriage, eating meats offered to idols, the Lord's Supper, giving, etc.
3. In 1 Cor. 7, Paul answers some questions which the Corinthians had asked. His answers to their questions about marriage are to be discussed in this lesson.

Discussion.I. IS MARRIAGE TO BE DESIRED OR AVOIDED BY CHRISTIANS?

- A. Some of the Jews in Corinth taught that one broke God's divine precept if one remained single. The Greek philosophers affirmed, on the other hand, that if a man would live happily and pure he should not enter into marriage. The Corinthians then were urged, on the one hand, to marry and on the other to refrain from it. Under such conditions they wrote Paul.
- B. The Roman Catholic today teaches that the state of celibacy is the purest state and forbids her priests, nuns, etc. to marry.
- C. Paul's answer to the question must be considered in view of the present distress. 1 Cor. 7:26.
 1. Marriage is a matter of indifference--one may marry or not marry. 1 Cor. 7:7-9.
 2. Marriage is a state that belongs only to this life. Lk. 20:27-35; 1 Cor. 7:29-31.
 3. So Paul leaves it up to each individual as to whether he marries or remains single, emphasizing that one should marry if one needs to to so. 1 Cor. 7:8,9.

II. WHAT IS PAUL'S INSPIRED ADVICE WHERE BOTH ARE CHRISTIANS? WHAT SHOULD BE THE COURSE FOLLOWED IF SEPARATION OCCURS?

- A. "Let not the wife depart from her husband." "Let not the husband put away his wife." 1 Cor. 7:10,11.
- B. But if they cannot live together and still serve God and one depart this course must be followed:
 1. They must ~~remain~~ married. 7:11.
 2. Or be reconciled to each other. 7:11.
- C. The exception the Lord gives in Matt. 5:32 is not mentioned here because seemingly Paul is discussing separation and not divorce.

III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH OUGHT TO BE DONE WHERE ONE IS A CHRISTIAN AND THE OTHER ONE IS NOT? (One obeys the gospel after marriage and the other does not)

- A. Evidently, due to teaching that prevailed in Corinth or to misunderstanding of the gospel, some of the Corinthians believed that a Christian could not continue to live with a non-Christian.
- B. If the unbeliever was willing to continue to live with the Christian "let him not put her away", "let her not leave him". 7:12,13.
 1. There was the hope that the non-Christian might be converted. 7:16.
 2. Peter expressed this hope when he told Christian wives how to conduct themselves before their non-Christian husbands. 1 Pet. 3:1-6.
- C. If the unbeliever departed despite the Christian's efforts then the Christian is no longer under bondage. 7:15. (No longer obligated to that one to carry out the marriage dues and obligations.)

IV. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT A WIDOW MARRYING AGAIN?

- A. Under the present distress Paul felt a widow would be happier if she remained unmarried. 7:40.
- B. Under normal circumstances Paul encouraged young widows to marry.
 - 1 Tim. 5:14. Why?
 - 1. He recognized the strong appeal of the flesh. 1 Tim. 5:11.
 - 2. A lot of idle time would give room for temptation to engage in sin. 1 Tim. 5:13. As a result the devil would have occasion to blaspheme. 1 Tim. 5:14.
- C. The only restriction placed upon the second marriage is that it be in the Lord. 1 Cor. 7:39.
- D. Some questions a widow might consider before entering into a second marriage.
 - 1. Can I adjust to a second marriage or will I live too much in the past?
 - 2. What about the children? Will they be able to adjust?
 - 3. Can I tolerate mention of my second companion's former mate (If they have been married before) and can he or she tolerate mention of mine?

Conclusion.

I, What are Some Contentions (Copy)

Introduction.

1. **Gal. 6:7.** Few folk imagine the deeds they do will ever meet them again. But there is nothing more certain than that every act, however insignificant will meet us again.
 - a. When Moses slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand he thought the matter was closed, but he was reminded of the deed the next day, and had to flee for his life. **Ex. 2:12-15.**
 - b. When Joseph's brothers had received money for him and saw the caravan disappear in the distance they were confident the event was closed forever. But 22 years later the famine compelled them to come face to face with their deed. What pains of anguish. **Gen. 37:-42:21.**
 - c. When David had taken Uriah's wife, ordered him placed in the foremost of the battle so he would be killed, he thought the deed was over. But he was forced to meet the consequences of his evil deed over and over again. **2 Sam. 11:1ff.**
 - d. Bro. H. Leo Boles used to tell the story of how he and his brother attempted to outwit their father. They were given the task of planting some beans in a field of corn. As evening wore on and the task was not completed they decided to plant all the beans in one place. By and by the beans came up and their father called them to the field one day to face their deed.
2. The day of the wicked man is coming--day of utter destruction, ruin and retribution.
 - a. God hates wickedness (**Prov. 6:16-19**), but finds no delight in the death of the wicked. (**Ezek. 33:11**).
 - b. God's mercy pardons the penitent sinner (**Heb. 8:12**) but his justice demands punishment of the wicked and impenitent.
 - c. God's immutable law decrees punishment of the wicked. **Gal. 6:7,8; Prov. 11:21; Psa. 1:4-6.**
3. It is the cold, brazen, impenitent, hard-hearted, stiff-necked sinner that the Lord laughs at, and whose day is coming.

Discussion.I. WHO IS THE WICKED MAN?

- A. Web. defines "wicked"---Morally bad, evil, iniquitous.
 - B. The Bible definition is more comprehensive.
 1. Murder is wickedness. **1 Jn. 3:12; Gen. 4:1-8.**
 2. Violence, corruption and disobedience is wickedness. **Gen. 6:5,11; * * * * ***
 3. Unchastity.
 - a. Homosexuality. **Gen. 18:23,25.**
 - b. Fornication. **Gen. 39:9.**
 4. **Ex. 9:27.** The Egyptians were cruel, heartless, oppressive, idolatrous, and covenant breakers.
 5. Man who dodges obligations; won't pay debts, etc. **Psal. 37:21.**
 6. Contentious, quarrelsome, trouble-maker. **Prov. 21:10.**
 7. Neglect of duty. **Mt. 25:26.**
 - C. Wickedness is a disregard for justice, righteousness, truth, honor, virtue, and duty; evil in thought and life; immorality, sinfulness, criminality.
 - D. Wickedness arises in the heart. **Mk. 7:21-23.** Men outwardly war wicked because the heart is evil.
- ✓ II. THE DAY OF THE WICKED IS COMING.
- A. The day of retribution is coming.
 1. Examples from the Bible.
 - a. Antediluvians. **Gen. 6:5,11; 1 Pet. 3:20; Matt. 24:37-39.**

b. Amalekites. Ex. 17:8; Deut. 25:17-19; 1 Sam. 15:2-9. (412 years from time deed done until day of retribution.)

c. Belshazzar. Dan. 5.

(1) 170 years earlier Isaiah had prophesied the downfall of Babylon. Isa. 21:1-9; Jer. 50:31

(2) The same night of the feast Cyrus was diverting the waters of the Euphrates River, and marched his army under the wall of the city and slew Belshazzar and his lords.

d. The rich farmer. Lk. 12:16-21. "All accounts are not settled in October."

2. The day of retribution is still coming to the wicked.

a. Man may have passed the point of no return in sinful delusion. Isa. 5:20.

b. Day is coming to the ungodly, impenitent, lovers of pleasures of the world; lustful, immoral, dishonest, corrupt, chislers and cheaters.

c. Day is coming to the lukewarm, indifferent, negligent church members. (Make promises to preacher, elders, etc. to come to church, but don't. Get ashamed! Run and dodge, duck and hide, feel relieved when church folk and preacher quit bothering.)

d. May neglect use of talent, but like one talent man and barren fig tree, your day is coming.

3. Wicked men interpret the delay in God's retribution as a green light for more sinful indulgence, whereas it is an extension of divine mercy. 2 Pet. 3:9. Eccle. 8:11.

4. Persist in sin and your day will come, maybe as failing health, financial loss, or some natural disaster, but it will come.

B. Day of death is coming. Gen. 27:2; Heb. 9:27.

1. Consider the notoriously wicked first:

a. John Dillinger - an infamous outlaw of prohibition era; a notorious gunman, escaped from prison with a pistol he had carved out of wood. But when he stepped out of a Chicago theater with the woman in red, his day had come.

b. Adolf Hitler founded the 3rd Reich which he boasted would last 1,000 years. Was founded on hatred, tyranny, and innocent blood. Lasted only 12 years, and Hitler had died a suicide.

c. Caryl Chessman, California criminal guilty of grievous crimes against society. Condemned to die. By legal maneuvers he eluded his appointment with the executioner for about 12 years. Boasted he wouldn't die. But about 2 years ago he was led into the gas chamber and executed. His day had come.

2. The sinner - he may be waltzing while Satan calls the tune; may be enjoying perfect health; may not have seen a doctor since birth, but his day is coming. Some day you won't come home in the evening; in the family circle your seat will be empty.

C. The day of the resurrection is coming. Jn. 5:28,29.

D. Day of judgment is coming. Rom. 14:12; Acts 17:30,31.

1. May be pious on Sunday and rascal the rest of the week. May slip and lie, drink, cheat, and get by without your church friends knowing, but 1 Cor. 4:5.

2. May be a modern Pharisee, put on good front publically. Matt. 23:27, 28.

E. Day of doom and punishment. Rev. 6:15-17; Matt. 25:41; Psa. 9:17.

Conclusion.

1. The warning of this lesson is to the wilful sinners; those who in spite of earnest pleas and exhortations by faithful servants of God and plain warnings from the Scriptures persist in sin.

2. It is as simple as the proposition: 2 & 2 = 4. Either it does or it doesn't. You live right or you don't. It is an Either-Or Proposition. Mt. 12:30.

Jn. 1:1-5--

(no. 1)

Introduction.

1. Luke begins his account of the life of Christ with an emphasis on the importance of what had been seen and heard. **Lk. 1:1-4.**
2. And no wonder when one considers the influence Christ has had upon the world and the thinking on men through the ages.
 - a. One writer expressed it in this way ("A Single Solitary Life" *Separate page.
 - b. Napoleon, after banishment to the isle of Helena, said of Christ. (Halley's Bible Handbook, p. 485)
3. In this series of lessons we propose to present, in chronological order, some thoughts on the life and death of Christ.
4. In this study he will be studied as the Word. Our text presents him:

Discussion.I. AS AN ETERNAL, DIVINE BEING. 1:1.A. "In the beginning was the Word."

1. "In the beginning" is essentially the same as that of **Gen. 1:1.**
2. The word was in existence before time and creation. He was not created, but was the force behind the creation.

B. The Word.

1. The Greeks used "word" to mean reason and wisdom.
2. John uses it to mean thought and expression. He conceives God as cut off from his creatures by many barriers, but communicating with man by Christ who is his Word.
3. Christ is the word. **1:14; Rev. 19:13.** If we had one word in our language that could sum up everything, then that is what John says Christ is.
4. He is called the Word before his conception and birth.
 - a. He is nowhere called the Son of God or the son of man except prophetically before his conception and birth of the virgin.
 - b. He is nowhere called Jesus or Savior until he came to save his people from their sins, save as the Spirit in prophecy foretold this would be his mission.
 - c. He is nowhere called the Christ until he was anointed "with the oil of gladness above his fellows", until he in his mission on earth received the Spirit "without measure" save as it was foretold in prophecy that he would be the anointed, the Christ of God.

C. The Word was with God. 1:1. Eternal Personality.

1. The word was on a level with and in communication with God--"most intimate communion."
2. Christ spoke of the glory he had with the Father before the world began. **Jn. 17:5, 24.**

D. The Word was God. 1:1. Deity.

1. This clause is cited and relied on to prove there is one person in the God head.
 - a. Three present at Christ's baptism. **Mt. 3:16, 17.**
 - b. On the mount of transfiguration a voice spoke from heaven. **Mt. 17:155.**
 - c. Jesus commended his spirit to the Father when he hung on the cross. **Lk. 23:46.**
2. Christ is the express image of the Father's person. **Heb. 1:3; Phil. 2:5, 6.**
3. Christ is the interpreter and revealer of the Father. **1:18; Jn. 6:46; 14:6-9; Matt. 11:27**
 - a. Man could not know God by his own wisdom. **1 Cor. 1:21.**

- b. The Son hath declared him: He who told the stories of the Lost Sheep and the Prodigal Son is revealing the tenderness of the divine heart. He who healed the leper, blessed the Magdalene, forgave the thief, is God in his relation to human frailty, folly and sin.
- c. In descending into this world Christ revealed the supreme God unto man and made a way for man to ascend to God.

II. AS THE CREATOR. 1:3.

- A. This verse shows that Christ existed before the things created, thus not a creature himself.
- B. It shows that the Word had a part in the Creation. Cf. Gen. 1:1,2; 26.
- C. The creative purpose of God was executed by Him. Jn. 1:10; Col. 1:16, 17; Heb. 1:1,2.

III. AS THE LIFE. 1:4.

- A. The Word gave physical life. Gen. 1:20-27; Jn. 11:43,44.
- B. The Word gives spiritual life. Jn. 6:48,63.
- 1. Man without Christ is dead in sin (separated from God). Eph. 2:1,2.
- 2. Christ gives life to those that come unto him. Jn. 5:40; 10:10; 14:6; 20:30,31.

IV. AS THE LIGHT. 1:4,5.

- A. Light is the power that dispells darkness. The life of goodness, holiness and wisdom was the "light of men"---a guide for the wayward steps of man.
- B. John said the light was come into the world. Jn. 3:19.
- C. Jesus said:
 - 1. "I am the light of the world." Jn. 8:12.
 - 2. He came a light to dispell darkness. Jn. 12:47.

Conclusion.

He that sees Christ sees the Father (Jn. 14:9); he that rejects the Christ rejects the father (Jn. 13:20). Christ is the Savior of the world (Acts 4:12)

- D. 4. The word became flesh. 1:14.
 - a. He who "was God" became "flesh." 1:14; Phil. 2:6-8; Heb. 2:14.
 - b. He who "was with God" dwelt (tabernacled) among us. 1:14; 1 Jn. 1:1,2.
 - c. He who "was in beginning" became (in time).

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Mt. 1:18-25-----

(No. 2)

Introduction.

1. "The coming of Christ into the world more than nineteen hundred years ago was the most significant event of all time." (Thomas)
2. "The birth and infancy of Jesus are of unusual interest to all humanity. The birth story of no other person has been told so many times with such absorbing interest to both young and old as that of Jesus. Heaven as well as all earth had an unusual interest in the birth of Jesus." (Lanier)
3. It is essential that one believe that Jesus is the Christ.
 - a. John the Baptist came to bear witness that men might believe. **Jn. 1:7.**
 - b. Must believe in him to have eternal life and escape the condemnation to come. **Jn. 3:14-16; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.**
 - c. Unless one believes he is the Christ he'll die in his sins. **Jn. 8:24.**
 - d. Must believe for remission of sins. **Acts 10:43.**
 - e. Must believe to be saved. **Acts 16:31.**
 - f. Must believe to overcome the world. **1 Jn. 5:5.**
4. John said these things are written that ye might believe. **Jn. 20:30, 31.** Knowing these things that were written about Christ will not only create faith in the unbeliever, but strengthen the faith of the Christian.
5. Let us consider then:

Discussion.

I. SOME THINGS THE BIBLE REVEALS ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

A. His birth was prophesied.

1. It was hinted at when the curse was placed on the earth. **Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4.**
2. God promised to bless all nations through Abraham's seed (**Gen. 12:1-3**) and Paul said his seed was Christ (**Gal. 3:16**).
3. Isaiah prophesied he would be born of a virgin (**Isa. 7:14**) and Matthew tells of the fulfillment (**Mt. 1:22, 23**).
 - a. (In 1961, James A. Pike, well-known Episcopal Bishop of California, "declared that he does not believe in the Biblical account of the virgin birth of Christ." Redbook Magazine assigned Louis Harris and associates the task of investigating to see how many believed this way. 100 students in 8 leading theological institutions were questioned and only 44% believed in the virgin birth. 80% of some 200 ministers writing in agreed with them. (Redbook Magazine, August, 1961, pp. 36, 107)
 - b. Men reject the virgin birth because they say it is biologically impossible. They fail to recognize that being a biological miracle "it is not capable of biological proof." (Ramn)
 - c. The evidence for the virgin birth is three-fold:
 - (1) Evidence is theistic--we believe in an omnipotent God who could do it.
 - (2) Evidence is theological--we see its place in the incarnation and we see the place of incarnation in redemption.
 - (3) Evidence is historical--we have the records of trustworthy men before us in the writings of the Gospels and in the earliest records of the church fathers.)
4. Micah prophesied that his birth would be in Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**); Matthew shows it was fulfilled (**Mt. 2:5, 6**). Mary lived in Nazareth (**Lk. 2:4**).

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✓ B. His birth was announced.

1. Gabriel announced his birth to Mary. **Lk. 1:26-33.**

2. The angel of the Lord explained Mary's pregnancy to Joseph.

Mt. 1:20, 21.

3. After he was born the angels announced it to the shepherds.

Lk. 2:8-12.

4. The shepherds went to see and then "made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." **Lk. 2:15-18.**

C. His birth occurred when "the fullness of time was come." **Gal. 4:4, 5.**

1. The "fullness of time was come" in the days of the Roman kings. **Dan. 2.**

2. The "fullness of time was come" because man realized he could not know God by his own wisdom. **1 Cor. 1:21.** He recognized a need.

3. The "fullness of time was come":

(1) "All the world was subject to one government so that the apostles could travel everywhere"

(2) The world was at peace; so the gospel could have free course.

(3) The Greek language was spoken everywhere with their other languages.

(4) The Jews were scattered everywhere with synagogues and the Holy Scriptures--Old Testament." (Peloubet's Bible Dict., pp. 314-15).

4. Each of the four great world empires had contributed to this time. Babylonian Captivity had brought about the building of the synagogues; the Medes and Persians had contributed law and order; the Greeks, a universal language; and the Romans good roads, law, etc., making communication better and protection for her citizens.

D. His birth was under the most humble and trying circumstances.

1. His mother traveled the 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem shortly before his birth. **Lk. 2:1-6.**

2. He was born in a stable and laid in a manger because "there was no room for them in the inn." **Lk. 2:7.**

E. The news of his birth was received:

1. With alarm and a desire to kill by some. **Mt. 2:1, 2, 11.**

2. With gladness, joy and great interest by others.

a. The angels "praised God." **Lk. 2:13, 14.**

b. The shepherds "glorified and praised God": **Lk. 2:15, 20.**

c. Simeon "blessed God." **Lk. 2:25, 28.**

d. Anna gave thanks unto the Lord. **Lk. 2:36-38.**

e. The wise men traveled hundreds of miles to worship and give gifts. **Mt. 2:1, 2, 11.**

II. SOME THINGS THE BIBLE DOES NOT REVEAL ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

A. It does not reveal the exact date of his birth.

1. The religious world celebrates December 25 as the birthday of Christ. Some have held it was on April 20 or May 20.

2. But the date of his birth probably was not during this time as it was the rainy season in Palestine and shepherds would not have been in the fields. **Lk. 2:8ff.**

B. It does not reveal how many wise men came to see him soon after his birth.

1. Jesus was probably about 40 days old when the wise men came. Circumcised at eighth day (**Lk. 2:21**) and Mary continued in her purification 33 more days (**Lev. 12:2-5**) the wise men came (**Mt. 2:1-12**) and the flight into Egypt (**Mt. 2:13-15**).

2. Most pictures and stories have three wise men because there were three different gifts (**Mt. 2:11**), but the Bible doesn't say.

Conclusion

The coming of Christ into the world has made a difference in every phase of life. His coming into your life can make a difference. Will you let him in?