Session Seven



Marriage Relationships

Supplemental Notes

- > Dr. Payne points out that in Paul's teaching on marriage in 1 Corinthians 7, he "identifies twelve issues and he treats with perfect symmetry the man and the woman". The twelve issues are equally balanced for husbands and wives to demonstrate mutuality in marriage.
 - o The twelve issues are in: I Corinthians 7: 2, 3, 4, 5, 10-11, 12-13, 14, 15, 16, 28, 32-34a, and 33-34b.
 - o For instance, in verse 3 he says the husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and, in the same verse Paul says the wife should fulfill her marital duty to her husband.
 - And in verses 33-34b, he says a married man is concerned about his wife and, likewise, a married woman is concerned about her husband.

Bible Verses and Significant Quotes

How do we apply submission in marriage?

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²:Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Ephesians 5:21-22

"The context is submitting one to another, out of reverence for Christ. Virtually every critical Greek text, every one I've ever found, does not have the word 'submit' in verse 22. It depends on submitting to one another."

Payne

"If the early church had decided to make the abolition of slavery or the abolition of patriarch front and center, they would never have gotten to their gospel message...So Jesus and Paul are both going about as far as you can expect Jewish men to go at that time. Short of what? Short of actually pressing the church into a posture that would have gotten them crushed by the powers of the day. That would have been way too much too soon." Stackhouse

"I've been involved in working with women in Nepal...I talk about equality and the women light up! They light up because they are coming from a place where they have been considered the lowest of the low...But groups come in teaching that women should be submissive in the home and submissive in the family and in the culture." Swanson

What does the Bible say about mutuality in marriage?

"We ought to go to the passage when Paul talks in the most detail about marriage. And there is no doubt about it, 1st Corinthians 7 is that passage. It says far more about marriage than any other passage in the Bible. And in it he identifies twelve issues and he treats with perfect symmetry, the man and the woman...So let's do it. It works!" Payne

How are decisions to be made in marriage?

"Before they even started (decision making), they would look each other in the face and they would say 'I'm with you'. And the other person would say 'I'm with you'....Unity is truly the goal." Malloy

"Walking in God's design, walking side by side, is literally life changing. It's like you give people keys and then you open the door to a glimpse of heaven. Sometimes I think we can get a glimpse of heaven this side of eternity if we would just listen to the Lord and let him lead." Evans

"Someone will have an opinion or we'll discuss and come out with a result. The end seems the right result. We also pray and see what God is seeking to direct us." J. Hess

"Sometimes the husband makes the final decision. Sometimes the wife makes the final decision. Sometimes we both, together make a final decision. And sometimes a final decision isn't made. There are times when it is better just to wait and let things move forward and God will answer certain concerns. It's not that we don't recognize any authority. We seek to recognize God as our authority. And, therefore, as we grow, as we become more of who God intended us to be, we have the opportunity of connecting with him and each of us encourages the other onward in that." R. Hess

Is mutuality threatening manhood?

"I think that there is no higher manly thing than to protect your wife. And I'm not just talking about putting a roof over her head, keeping bad guys from coming in the house. I'm talking about protecting her gifts, protecting her dreams, protecting her soul." Fong

"My experience is, in our marriage, boldly working together, both of us to be maximized for the Kingdom, is the most romantic thing we could possibly do together." S. Roese