

The Home

- (Part II) -

Four Areas Where We Are Substituting Man's Plans For God's Plans

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Text: Genesis 2:24

**Theme: To seek to strengthen homes by following
God's plan for the home.**

Introduction:

1. We are letting the world influence us.
2. And we must reconsider our positions at all times to make sure they are in attune with God's word.

Discussion:

- I. We must be strongly committed to the institution of marriage itself.
 - A. A contrast:
 1. The world says:
 - a. Marriage is outdated.
 - b. Different lifestyles.
 - c. Couples living together.
 - d. Trial marriages -renegotiated later.
 - e. Denmark now allows for homosexual marriages.
 2. But see what God says - Genesis 2:24

- B. We must have a positive commitment.
 - 1. It is an institution ordained of God.
 - 2. It is for our benefit.
 - 3. In many areas, the home receives very low profile in the church.
 - a. Must teach young people.
 - b. Must place emphasis on pre-marital counseling.
 - c. Must place emphasis on counseling for troubled marriages.
 - d. Must put emphasis on marriage enrichment.
 - 1) To make good marriages better.
 - 2) It must be understood that marriage is a growth process.
 - 3) Ounce of prevention worth a pound of cure.
 - a) We must try to stop trouble before it comes.
 - b) Usually we wait until its too late and then we let a person tell us about which number mate is dead or alive or what have you and try to figure it out on a chalkboard.
- C. We can stem the tide of divorce in the church by a renewal of commitment to the institution of marriage.

II. Must understand the proper definition of *love*.

- A. The world understands love differently than Christians.
 - 1. They think :
 - a. Freedom
 - b. Doing your own thing
 - c. Having pleasure, no restraints
 - d. Selfishness
 - e. Seeking “fulfillment”
 - f. A date, a romance, a feeling
 - g. But these ideas cannot sustain the marriage relationship.
 - 2. These definitions are entering the church.

- B. But Christian love is something that is learned.
 - 1. Titus 2:4
 - 2. Cf. Christ said to love your enemies.
Matthew 5:43,44.
 - a. Doesn't come naturally.
 - b. Doesn't automatically feel good.
 - c. It takes learning.
 - C. Love is:
 - 1. Unselfish- seeks not it's own, seeks the interest of someone else.
 - 2. Eternal in it's perspective.
 - a. It considers how it will affect one's eternal well-being.
 - b. Whom we marry very well may determine where we will spend eternity.
 - 3. It has to be nurtured.
- III. Roles in marriage ("My son is at Vassar and my daughter is at West Point")
- A. Roles in marriage was not seemingly a problem 100 yrs. ago.
 - B. Just by nature of the relationship itself, there has to be a division of labor and responsibility in the home.
 - 1. So there will have to be the assumption of various roles by the married partners.
 - 2. Must look to the roles set out in the scriptures.
 - C. Scriptural roles.
 - 1. Husband
 - a. Protect and provide -
 - 1). Genesis 3:19; I Timothy 5:8
 - 2). More than just gadgets and things.
 - b. Involves love for the wives- Ep.5:25,28.
 - 1) As head of the home, the man has the primary obligation of promoting love in the home.
 - 2) Colossians 3:19
 - c. Must be leaders -
 - 1) Physically
 - 2) Spiritually

- d. Father- must have time for his children as well as his work - Ephesians⁶:4.
 - 1) The first image a child has of the heavenly Father is that of his earthly father.
 - 2) Matthew²³:9-11
- 2. Wife -
 - a. Provide nurture and care and support in making a home that will be a loving home.
 - b. Hers is a role of submission.
 - 1) The right kind of husband will have a willingly submissive wife.
 - a) Genesis³:16 - thy desire shall be to thy husband.
 - b) I^{II}Corinthians¹¹:3 - the head of the woman is the man
 - c) Ephesians⁵:22,33 - the husband is the head of the wife.
 - d) Colossians³:18 - wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.
 - e) I^{II}Peter³:1 - be in subjection.
 - 2) Men should not dominate in some arrogant, pride-filled way.
 - 3) Women should not feel inferior because of this submission.
 - a) We don't feel any less of a person because we are submissive to God, Christ, or the eldership. We know it is God's plan.
 - b) Analogy - a police officer in uniform
 - 1) *He may not exactly be the best police officer but we must submit to his authority.*
 - 2) *The husband has authority in the home, though he may not exercise it perfectly all the time. He must strive to grow.*

IV. Permanent nature of marriage.

- A. The situation now -
 - 1. Over a million divorces a year.
 - a. About 40% of new marriages will end in divorce.
 - b. 75% of divorces involve minor children.
 - 2. Our society tells us that divorce is acceptable. (A lawyer in Georgia said even that it is healthy.)
- B. Why is the church so concerned about restudying divorce?
 - 1. What are we hoping to learn?
 - 2. Are our motives correct?
- C. Scriptural points:
 - 1. Matthew 19:10 - they understood what Jesus said.
 - 2. I Corinthians 6:9-11 - Did adulterers straighten out their lives in the first century?
 - a. Did thieves keep on stealing?
 - b. Did they keep on being drunkards?
 - c. I Corinthians 5 - sexual sin was not to be tolerated.

Conclusion:

- 1. God's plan works.
- 2. We must be committed to it.
- 3. We must seek to improve our marriages.

Invitation:**Bibliography:**

Turner, Paul - lecture on this subject at Alabama Christian School of Religion Lectureship - Montgomery, AL, November 5, 1981.