

Choose to be a Nobel and Loving Husband

Lesson #15

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25 *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”*

Introduction:

Perhaps you heard about the husband who lacked tact. Early one morning his wife left for a trip abroad...and that very day their poodle died. When she called home that evening, she asked how everything was - and he bluntly blurted out, "Well the dog died!" Shocked, she chided him through the tears for being so tactless, so strong.

"What should I have said?" he asked.

"You should've broken the news gently, perhaps in stages. When I called you from here in New York, you could have said, 'The Dog is on the roof.' And the next day when I called you from London, 'He fell off the roof.' The following day from Paris, you could have told me, 'He is at the vet's...in the hospital.' And finally, from Rome, I could have then been informed, 'he died.' "

The husband paused and thought about the advice. His wife then asked, "By the way, how is mother?"

He responded, "She's on the roof!"

Transitional Statement:

Marriage is not for everyone, but God works through the marriage relationship and we need to be diligent in our efforts because kingdom business lies in the wake.

I. What does the feminine design require?

A. To have a good listener

1. A man who will put his own thoughts aside and try to put himself in his wives shoes
2. He is quick to listen
 - a. Using good eye contact
3. Valuing her words.
4. Trying to understand her perspective

B. To have Affection

1. First of all male affection doesn't come easy for some men.
 - a. But it should be a priority
2. We need to learn what makes our wives feel loved
 - a. I wrestled this thought for a long time
3. But through it the woman feels a deep love and connection
4. She feels desired and valued

C. To have Affirmative of value

1. Our wives need very deeply to know that we know and appreciate who they are and what they bring to the relationship.
 - a. They need encouragement
 - b. They need to be believed in
2. And they, just like us, need support for their journey

D. To have Assurance of security

1. They need men willing to work hard and provide for the family.
2. They don't need men who spend the mortgage money at the casino
3. Or men that approach life with the hail mary approach
 - a. But organized men
 - b. Men willing to break their backs if need be to take care of the family.

4. Dependable and able to give direction
- E. To have a man that is Achieving in nature.
1. A man that cares about improving life.
 2. A man open to learning.
 3. Engaged in success
 4. Proactive in solution

II. Let's think about marriage in the beginningGen. chapters 1-2

A. Marriage begins with God.

Genesis 1:27-28

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, " Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

1. The home was a design of creation
2. It was made of diverse genders
3. It was given male spiritual leadership

B. Marriage is founded on diversity

Genesis 1:27

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

1. Both male and female
2. Marriage should grow from diversity

C. Marriage should thrive on mutual service

Genesis 2:18

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

1. Both the man and the woman need the other for completion

D. Marriage should have a shared purpose

Genesis 2:18

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

1. God intends for married folks to be on the same road together
2. Through implication helping each other along the way.

E. Marriage is cemented by lasting commitment

Genesis 2:23

*23 The man said,
" This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."*

1. Bound together by in God's eyes you are one and the same person
2. What God has joined together man is not to put asunder

III. God's clear reminder of what a good marriage should look like Hosea 2:19-20

Hosea 2:19-20

*19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies.
20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.
KJV*

A. Everlasting covenant

1. Not disposable
2. Not for incompatibility

B. Covenant of righteousness

1. Godly marriage only exists within the boundaries of righteousness
2. Worldly marriage fail because they try to leave God out of the equation.
 - a. Christian marriages fail for the same reasons

C. Covenant of justice

1. Steven Covey's book "7 Habits of highly effective people" spells out the need for the way we deal with others to be fair and balanced verses one sided.
2. The very mention of justice necessitates a discussion of authority.
 - a. Marriage is to exist and be defined by God's authority
 - b. Which means submission for both parties to God.

D. Covenant of compassion

1. Compassion is truly the deepest part of our hearts and I think God points to that when He speaks of His compassion.
2. Each spouse must be sensitive to the other and take every measure to keep dividing walls torn down.

E. Covenant of mercy

1. I can't see any relationship existing, much less thriving without this quality.
 - a. Mercy in many ways separates us from heathen instinct.
 - b. Mercy creates desire for betterment and grows relationships.
2. It is very sad to see marriages die because of the lack of mercy.

F. Covenant of faithfulness

1. Faithfulness brings complete trust
2. And is built by behavior plus time.

G. Covenant of intimacy (Know the Lord)

1. Just as our relationship with God has great depth....so should our marriages.

IV. Christ gives the ultimate model for marriage.

Ephesians 5:22-33

22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in

all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

- A. Christ loved the church and submitted Himself to her needs
- B. He loved the church unselfishly
- C. He loved the church more than Himself.
 - 1. He was willing to die in her place

V. Peter instructions for husbands 1 Peter 3:7

1 Peter 3:7

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- A. Be considerate with her
- B. Have respect for her
- C. Show her honor
 - 1. So that nothing will hinder your prayers

Conclusion:

Spirituality grows like a tree planted by streams of water when we treat our wives in a godly way.