

January 13, 2013 Sermon Application Handout

“God’s Design for Husbands” Part 2

Eph. 5:29, Col. 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:7, Titus 2:1-6

1. Before you begin, pray for understanding (Proverbs 1:23)! Read Ephesians 5:25-30; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:7, and Titus 2:1-6 and write down some general observations as you go along. Who are the authors addressing? What are some of the exhortations you see in the text?
2. Re-read Colossians 3:19; besides the exhortation for husbands to love their wife, what additional command is given to husbands by God? How might husbands shun sourness in their marriages?
3. Look up the word embittered; how is it defined?
4. Some of the actions that can stem from bitterness are harshness, being distant, disrespectful, or a lack of tenderness. List out some sinful behaviors that you recognize in your life that indicate you may be embittered toward your wife or others?
5. Jesus says that it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks (Mt. 12:34). What is really going on in the heart of a person who is embittered? What is it rooted in? (Read Mark 11:25-26 and Colossians 3:13 to help formulate your answer).
6. Does this describe you? If so take the time right now to read Ephesians 4:17-32 very thoughtfully and carefully and then answer the questions below:
 - a. What is characteristic of an unbeliever (17-19)?
 - b. What is characteristic of a believer (20-24)?
 - c. In light of what Christ has done for the believer, what do they now have the capacity to do for the glory of God (25-32)?
 - d. What is the motivation for walking in the manner for which every believer has been called (verse 32)?
 - e. Now pray. What do you need to repent of? What do you need to ask forgiveness for of God, of your wife, or anyone else? If you will not obey Christ in this area of your life, please seek another brother or sister in Christ to help you.

7. Reread 1 Peter 3:7. What additional commands does God give husbands? How might husbands love their wives by studying them seriously?

8. This command is stated in the present tense, active voice participle, it means to dwell together. But how? By having a knowledgeable, conscious sensitivity toward her. What are some practical ways a husband can do this? How might a wife encourage her husband in this area? How might a single person prepare their hearts in anticipation of being a husband or wife someday?

9. Peter describes a wife in 1 Peter 3:7 as a weaker vessel. He is not communicating that women are spiritually inferior than men. He has more the idea of a fragile vase. A vase is special and meant to hold an arrangement of beautiful flowers and set in a special place. Is this how you view your own wife? Or do you view her like an old milk jug, a necessary container only to be tossed in the recycling bucket when emptied. Husbands take stock, how are you treating your wives?

10. What does Peter say are the consequences for husbands when they do not live with their wife in an understanding way and show her honor as a weaker vessel?

11. Reread Titus 2:1-6. What 4 groups of people are being addressed? What is the exhortation for younger men? Look-up that adjective up and write down its meaning.

12. Based on what you have just learned, why do you believe young men are exhorted in this way specifically? Do you struggle in this area? Be specific.

13. Filter the following 5 ways to love your wife by exhibiting self-control. Which area do you feel you have grown in? Which areas do you still need to grow?
 - a. Be in control of your passions (Eph 4:19)
 - i. Are you acting like an unbeliever?
 - ii. Are you succumbing to the world?

 - b. Be in control of your plans
 - a. Do you have a direction for your life?
 - b. Do you have a plan for being a good husband?
 - c. Do have a plan for leading your family?

 - c. Be in control of your pride (Rom 12:3)
 - i. Are you growing in humility (1 Peter 5:5)
 - ii. Are you teachable and respectful?
 - iii. Do you ask for forgiveness when you sin against your wife or others?
 - iv. Do you seek accountability?

- d. Be in control of your peers.
 - i. Who do you spend your time with?
 - ii. Do you have godly men in your life?

 - e. Be in control of your piety.
 - i. Are you cultivating a deep relationship with Christ?
 - ii. Are you involved at church?
 - iii. Do you engage in worship and prayer?
14. To help you to continue to grow in the area of loving you wife by shunning sourness, studying her seriously, and being sensible, here are some additional practical ways for you to implement the truths you have just studied:
- a. Spend time with your wife and ask questions beyond how her day was.
 - b. Help her to understand you better.
 - c. Observe your wife. What does she struggle with? What does she do well? Be purposeful and look for ways to bless her. What's her favorite flower or candy?
 - d. Don't taper off when you get older. Stay attentive.
 - e. Read the book, *The Complete Husband* by Lou Priolo and commit to growing in your role as a husband.

Resources:

The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities with the Wisdom of God by Tim Keller
The Complete Husband: A Practical Guide to Biblical Husbanding by Lou Priolo
Bitterness: The Root that Pollutes by Lou Priolo
Wayne Mack's Homework Manuals: Marital (vol. 2) - Rate your marriage form = especially helpful personal and interpersonal problems (vol. 1)
Recovering Biblical Manhood ed. by John Piper and Wayne Grudem
"Let the Men be Men" sermon series by Chris Mueller
(<http://media.faith-bible.net/audio/vintage/men-be-men>)