

# Wisdom in Marriage | Building Our Homes on the Gospel

Sunday, March 06, 2011

Each of us have desires to build our lives successfully. At every turn we consider how our lives are and what they should be, or at least what we think we would like for them to be.

Not all of us are married and today will have a tendency to "ignore" or feel that this message is not applicable. However, whether you are married or whether you intend to be married or even if you are single by divorce or death, learning about the wisdom of God in marriage is an opportunity.

It's an opportunity for some amazing things to happen in your life:

- 1 - *It is an opportunity for God to be GLORIFIED*
- 2 - *It is an opportunity for God to be WORSHIPED*
- 3 - *It is an opportunity for you to have JOY*
- 4 - *It is an opportunity for GRACE*
- 5 - *It is an opportunity for FAITH to be strengthened*
- 6 - *It is an opportunity for UNDERSTANDING*
- 7 - *It is an opportunity for INTIMACY*
- 8 - *It is an opportunity for KNOWLEDGE*
- 9 - *It is an opportunity for GLORY*

So listen, hear, trust and worship through the hearing of His word. We must not always concern ourselves with how scripture will endeavor to be USED for our own "issues". Paul teaches that it is Christ Alone who stays with us in our issues and that they are most of the time never going to cease, so learn to listen and grow in areas other than how to use God for your own purpose.

That being said I want to tell you that it would be very easy for me to preach to the women of the world today and help them agonize over their role and the commands of God to be a certain way, maybe on mother's day?? :) Today though I want you to hear me well, I will speak as a husband to my brothers primarily but in relation, if we as men were to lead our homes in a spirit -filled way, our brides would live for Christ before our eyes. (It's not our fault they don't, but it would be much easier)

## **Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)**

**22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.**

## **Marriage is a Good Thing**

Proverbs 31:10-12 (ESV)

10 An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

## **Marriage is WISE**

It is wise, because it is valuable. Wise in that it reflects the nature of God, the gospel of Christ and the essence of redemption.

## **A Wife is Favor from the Lord (God gives good things)**

Favor in the giving of the wife. IT is a good thing.

Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

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

Proverbs 19:14 (ESV)

14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Do you see your spouse as a GOOD THING? Do you hold to God's establishment of your marriage and treat each other as a good thing from the Lord or some junk to be rid of?

Is God honored men in the way you LOVE your wife?

Are you treating your SISTER in Christ as she should be treated.

What if the brothers of this church began to hold you to the standard of scripture, how long would you stick around?

### **Wisdom Finds Favor from the Lord**

**Proverbs 8:35 -36 (ESV)**

**35 For whoever finds me (wisdom) finds life and obtains favor from the LORD,  
36 but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death."**

CONNECTION??

### **Favor comes from Wisdom (Understanding/Intimacy)**

Favor from the Lord is LIFE

Favor from the Lord is ACCEPTANCE

Wisdom is Christ and he who finds Christ receives FAVOR

Favor is better known as **GRACE**

So... A wife (husband) in marriage is God's grace displayed in shadows.

So, how we RELATE to our spouses will be the BEST example of how we understand the Gospel.

Is God's MANIFOLD Wisdom displayed in your marriage?

### **Let's look at the church's purpose**

Ephesians 3:8-12 (ESV)

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**Let's look at marriage's purpose in light of this.**

**Marriage is a picture of Christ (Finding a wife, displays the essence of Christ finding YOU)**

Ephesians 5:25 -33 (ESV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,  
26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

30 because we are members of his body.

31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**First, MARRIAGE IS TEMPORAL but is highly important**

**Second, BODY OF CHRIST is ETERNAL and is built out of families who shadow the gospel**

Therefore our relationships in and toward marriage are a perfect display of God's grace toward us.

- Opportunities to show FORGIVENESS
  - Christ has given SANCTIFICATION to US, therefore we can look at each other through that lens.
- Opportunities to REPENT
  - There is no OFFENSE like our OFFENSE to God- so what keeps us from running to Christ when we know we are sinning?
    - NOTE: There is much apostasy in the world today centered around the idea that people are NOT SINNERS and that God is NOT A GOD of Righteous Holiness because He will LOVE ALL people into eternal life... this is junk. We are called to REPENT and BELIEVE on the name of Jesus Christ for salvation (saving) or PERISH and ANYONE who gives another gospel than that is a liar and a thief and the truth is NOT in him and he should be stopped in his tracks.
- Opportunities for GRACE to prevail through TRIAL
  - Enduring conflict in the home is the mark of grace. It's been said, "If two people agree on everything, one of them is not needed." Graham's wife?
- Opportunities to be INSTRUMENTS of LIFE with our WORDS
  - We can speak life to each other and give GRACE with our words as they reflect the HEART that God has created in us. We can offer truth and give healing to hurts instead of talking and blasting away to appease our own desires.

- Opportunities to REFLECT CHRIST in our Anger toward sin and not toward each other.
  - Humility is KING in the heart of the one in need of grace and in turn he gives it back. Although sin angers (and it should!!!!!!) our anger is never poured out on the GOOD THING that God has given us. Oh may we repent of such horror and ruin toward our wives!

**A Wife is a GOOD THING**  
**A wife is a GOOD THING FROM THE LORD**

MEN, we are not the LORDS of our wives, we are not their BOSS and we are not called to TRAIN them like dogs.

Men, we are CALLED and commanded to love them as Christ loves us, to die in their stay!

Let me quote: My charge to a recent groom during his wedding service.

"MEN, you have an amazing calling ahead of you. TO LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR BRIDE. This means that JUST LIKE CHRIST– you must lay down your life. You must CHERISH and SUFFER for her and FORSAKE ALL THINGS, ALL PLANS, ALL HOPES, ALL DREAMS and ALL PEOPLE so that SHE is lifted up, built up, carried up, made much of– EVEN WHEN SHE DOESN'T DESERVE IT, EVEN if she rejects the very life you give. Even when she is unlovable toward you. Lay down your life.

This is what CHRIST DID for His bride: the church. He gave himself UP. He deserved NOT to die, but we do. WE sin against Him... He is sinless, He is God who became SIN so we might be called the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD.

YOUR PROVISION for WIFE, is not MONEY, HOUSES, SECURITY and DREAMS, but REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS and SOLID WORSHIP in light of suffering and pain. When HEALTH LEAVES either of you. You hang on and suffer together. When MONEY GOES DRY, you hang on and sacrifice what you don't have together.

YOU NEVER FORSAKE, YOU NEVER WALK, YOU NEVER LEAVE, you CLEAVE... CHRIST CLEAVES to His bride, even when she runs away, He patiently endures the suffering of pain and calls her back to HIM as though she has never left because SHE is PURE because HE PAID THE DEBT with HIS OWN FLESH. DO YOU SEE SANCTIFICATION HERE? What bride doesn't want this? What bride doesn't want to be drawn to such a groom out of spontaneous and supernatural affection?

As YOU TWO CONTINUE on your path together in this life, your lives in Christ will draw each other closer to HIM: THIS IS A PROCESS, this is God's plan, this is GROWING INTO HIM who is the head of YOUR HOME and YOUR CHURCH: Jesus Christ!" Steven and Holly Louis Wedding Jan 15, 2011

**So - Cherish your wives. Respect your husbands, do so for the glory and out of the honor of GOD who saved YOU through FORBEARING your sins on the back of Christ!**

**Now, let's look at our relationships in MARRIAGE and our view of MARRIAGE in light of our introduction today.**

**Does our view make marriage to be FAVORED!**

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