

Marriage – Biblical Foundations

Various Passages

Introduction

For the weeks between Mother's Day and Father's Day we will be looking at most of the foundational Scriptures for marriage. We will be breaking into groups, each of which will take a passage and answer some questions about it. Then each group will present their findings to the rest of the class.

Passages:

Gen. 1:26-28 - ²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
²⁷And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸And 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."
Gen. 2:7 - ⁷Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
Gen. 2:18-25 - ¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.
²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³And 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." ²⁴For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Eph. 5:21-33 - ²¹And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. ²²Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For 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. ²⁴But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as

Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

³²This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

³³Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and *let* the wife *see to it* that she respect her husband.

Prov. 31:10-31 - ¹⁰Can an excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain. ¹²She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. ¹³She looks for wool and flax, And works with her hands in delight. ¹⁴She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. ¹⁵She rises also while it is still night, And gives food to her household, And portions to her maidens. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She girds herself with strength, And makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hands grasp the spindle. ²⁰She extends her hand to the poor; And she stretches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid of the snow for her household, For all her household are clothed with scarlet. ²²She makes coverings for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells *them*, And supplies belts to the tradesmen. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future. ²⁶She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband *also*, and he praises her, *saying*: ²⁹"Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." ³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, *But* a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. ³¹Give her the product of her hands, And let her works praise her in the gates.

1 Cor. 7:1-5 - ¹Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. ²But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Tim. 3:1-13 - ¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. ⁴*He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶*and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷And he must have a good reputation

with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. ⁸¶Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹*but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Mal. 2:10-16 – ¹⁰¶“Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹“Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹²“As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob *everyone* who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts. ¹³“And this is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts *it with* favor from your hand. ¹⁴“Yet you say, ‘For what reason?’ Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵“But not one has done *so* who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did *that* one *do* while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then, to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. ¹⁶“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.”

Prov. 5:15-23 - ¹⁵¶Drink water from your own cistern, And fresh water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your springs be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be yours alone, And not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. ²⁰For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress, And embrace the bosom of a foreigner? ²¹For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths. ²²His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin. ²³He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

Prov. 12:4 - An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames *him* is as rottenness in his bones.

Prov. 21: 9 - It is better to live in a corner of a roof, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Prov. 21: 19 - It is better to live in a desert land, Than with a contentious and vexing woman.

Prov. 25: 24 - It is better to live in a corner of the roof Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

1 Pet. 3:1-12 - ¹¶In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of *them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ²as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. ³And let not your adornment be *merely* external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. ⁵For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. ⁶Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. ⁷You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

⁸¶To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For, “LET HIM WHO MEANS TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILF. ¹¹“AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. ¹²“FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

Matt. 5:31-32 - ³¹“And it was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’; ³²but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Mk. 10:1-12 - ¹¶And rising up, He *went from there to the region of Judea, and beyond the Jordan; and crowds *gathered around Him again, and, according to His custom, He once more *began* to teach them. ²And *some* Pharisees came up to Him, testing Him, and *began* to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. ³And He answered and said to them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴And they said, “Moses permitted *a man* TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND *her* AWAY.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶“But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. ⁷“FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, ⁸AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹“What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” ¹⁰And in the house the disciples *began* questioning Him about this again. ¹¹And He *said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.”

Titus 2:2-5 – ²Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵*to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Ecc. 4:9-12 – ⁹Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. ¹⁰For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. ¹¹Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm *alone*? ¹²And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not quickly torn apart.

Conclusion

What were the two or three things you heard today that encouraged you about your marriage? _____

What were the two or three things you heard today that concerned you about your marriage? _____

Questions: Passage: _____

Who will present for your group? _____

What lessons about marriage can you gain from this passage? _____

What benefits of marriage are shown? _____

What roles or responsibilities? _____

What instructions are given to the man? _____

What instructions are given to the woman? _____

If a preacher were to preach a marriage-related sermon on this passage, what might be his Central Idea or Thesis? _____

Think of at least two situations where this passage or the lesson taught in it was (or would have been) applicable or helpful. _____

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