

Strengthening Your Marriage

Review Lesson #6 "Financial Agreement"

Deuteronomy 8:18 "It is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

Proverbs 10:22 "It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it."

Luke 16:10,11 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

Proverbs 13:11 "He who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

Proverbs 21:5,20 "Diligence leads to profit, haste leads to poverty." "The foolish devours all he has."

1 Timothy 6:9,10,17 "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief's. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

Proverbs 23:4,5 "Do not wear your self out to get rich, have wisdom to show restraint."

Proverbs 15:16,27 "Better is little with the fear of the LORD, than great wealth with turmoil." "A greedy man brings trouble to his family."

Ecclesiastes. 5:10-15 "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. As goods increase, so do those who consume them."

Hebrews 13:5 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... for where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house... or anything that is your neighbor's."

Luke 12:15-21 "Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. For a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." "You fool, who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Proverbs 22:7,27 "The borrower is servant to the lender." "If you lack the means to pay, even your bed will be snatched from under you."

1 Timothy 5:8,18 "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

- Leave and Cleave (gain independence from your parents)
- Live within your means/simplify your lifestyle
- If both spouse's work, live off the husband's income & save the wife's income.
- Discipline yourselves to save for the future.
- Live with minimal debt. Your goal as a couple should be financial freedom.

Lesson #7

Different By Design:

Genesis 2:18,22 "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him. Then the LORD God made woman from the rib he had taken out of the man and he brought her to the man."

- complementary ("required to supply a deficiency" "the necessary opposite part")
- uniquely different from each other (in perspective and contribution)

My Fair Lady, "Why can't a woman be like a man?"

Questions For Couples:

In what ways are you similar as a husband and wife?

In what ways are you different from your spouse?

How are you different in the way you see things, interpret things, or try to communicate? (Things may seem clear and straightforward to us... but may be understood completely different by our spouse.)

How have you tried to change your spouse into your own image?

Core Differences: (basic nature)

(men)

Bottom line (just the facts)

Take things at face value

States opinion once

Straightforward, Blunt

On/off button

Stimulated by sight

Able to compartmentalize

Head ("I think...")

Objective

Inhibited/few words

Tries to fix it (action)

Projects/Tasks/Impersonal

Significance from work

Needs significance, respect

(women)

Details (who, what, when, where, why)

Read between the lines

Repetition and discussion of affect

Sensitive, hidden thoughts

Constant flow which takes time

Stimulated by touch, words

All is one, difficult to separate

Heart ("I feel...")

Subjective or intuitive

Expressive/many words

Needs to be heard/understood

Relational/People/Personal

Significance from home

Needs security, love

How are you working through your differences?

The Call To Godly Character:

What character or personality traits are needed to make up a healthy marriage relationship? (Galatians 5:22,23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Qualities Of Godly Men:

- 1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life (marriage) so that nothing will hinder your prayers."
(understanding, sensitive, considerate, courteous, protecting, honoring)
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11 "as a father would his children – exhorting, comforting, urging."
- 1 Timothy 3:2-10,12,13; Titus 1:6-9 Qualifications of elders and deacons
- Proverbs 10:21 "The lips of the righteous nourish many."
- Proverbs 11:13 "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."
- Proverbs 12:22 "The Lord delights in men who are truthful."
- Proverbs 12:26 "A righteous man is cautious in friendships." (13:20)
- Proverbs 13:5,6 "The righteous hate what is false... righteousness guards the man of integrity."
- Proverbs 14:15 "A prudent man gives thoughts to his steps." (21:29)
- Proverbs 14:29 "A patient man has great understanding." (19:11)
- Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him."
- Proverbs 16:23 "A wise man's heart guides his mouth..." (16:21)
- Proverbs 19:22 "What is desired in a man is kindness."
- Proverbs 20:7 "The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him."
- Proverbs 21:3 "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice."
- Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is more desirable than great riches."
- Proverbs 22:9 "A generous man will himself be blessed."
- Proverbs 26:24,25 "A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit. Though his speech is charming, do not believe him... his malice may be concealed by deception but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly."
- Proverbs 27:12 "The prudent (man) sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it." (22:3)
- Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
- Proverbs 27:19 "A man's heart reflects the man."
- Proverbs 28:20 "A faithful man will be richly blessed..."
- Proverbs 29:11 "A wise man keeps himself under control."
- Genesis 6:9; 7:1 "Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God." "I have found you righteous in this generation..."
- Exodus 18:21 "Select capable men... men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain..." (Deuteronomy 1:13; Nehemiah 13:13; Acts 6:3)
- 2 Kings 20:3 "Remember, Oh LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your sight."

- 2 Chronicles 31:20,21 "This is what Hezekiah did... doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God... in obedience to the law... he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered."
- 2 Kings 23:25 "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did – with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses."
- Nehemiah 7:2 (Hananiah) "He was a man of integrity and feared God more than most men do."
- Job 1:1 "Job was blameless and upright, he feared God and shunned evil."
- Daniel 6:3,4 "Now Daniel so distinguished himself... by his exceptional qualities... they were unable to find grounds for charges against Daniel... they could find no corruption in him because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent."

Qualities Of Godly Women:

- Ruth 3:11 "For all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman."
- Proverbs 11:16 "A kindhearted woman gains respect..."
- Proverbs 11:22 "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."
- Proverbs 12:4 "A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones."
- Proverbs 19:14 "A prudent wife is from the LORD."
- Proverbs 31:10-31 "A wife of noble character... is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life... she works with eager hands...she provides for her family... she sets about her work vigorously... she opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy...she can laugh... she speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue... she does not eat the bread of idleness... a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised...let her works bring her praise at the city gate."
- Acts 9:36 Tabitha (Dorcas) "always doing good & helping the poor."
"full of good works and acts of charity."
- 1 Timothy 2:9,10 "I want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety... with good deeds appropriate for women who profess to worship God."
- 1 Timothy 3:11 (Deacon's wives) "women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers, but temperate and trustworthy in everything."
- 1 Timothy 5:9,10,14,16 "No widow may be put on the list unless she... has been faithful to her husband, is well known for her good deeds such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble, devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and give the enemy no opportunity for slander. If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them so that the church can help those widows who are really in need."
- Titus 2:4-5 "Train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husband..." ("husband-lovers")
- 1 Peter 3:1-6 "Wives, be submissive to your husbands so that, if they are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without words by the

behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment... instead it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands....if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." (Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5)

The Pursuit Of Wisdom, Discernment, And The Fear Of The LORD:

Proverbs 1:2-5,7,23,29-31; 2:4-11; 3:7,25,26; 4:23; 8:13; 9:10; 14:26,27; 16:6; 22:4; 28:14

Humbly Being Open To The Truth And Personal Change:

The problem of blind spots (1 Jn. 1:8)

We need correction (helping us see clearly)

We need exhortation (motivating us toward a godly response/personal change)

We need rebuke (helping us to personally addressing sin in our lives)

"The difference between spiritually blind people and physically blind people is that spiritually blind people are typically blind to their blindness." (Tripp)

Remember to begin with ourselves. (Matthew 7:1-5 "Log Eye")

Proverbs 27:5,6 "Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

Proverbs 28:23 "He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue."

Luke 17:3 "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."

Proverbs 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid." (12:15; 13:1,18; 15:5,12,32; 16:20; 18:15; 19:25,27; 25:12)

Proverbs 9:8,9 "Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still..." (8:33)

Proverbs 15:31 "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise." (10:17)

Question to ask to your spouse: "Do you have any questions or concerns about my character, behavior, or thinking, or do you see any specific sin in my life that you feel I should confess before the LORD or before another individual? (1 Peter 5:5,6; James 4:6)

Questions For Couples:

How are you improving as a husband/father or wife/mother?

(Phil. 3:12-14 "I haven't attained it...I press toward the goal.")

What positive qualities draw you to each other? (strengths)

What weaknesses do you see in each other that need attention? How do you communicate those perceived weaknesses to your spouse? How are they received?

Where are the areas God has been working for good in your spouse's life? How have you encouraged them in these? (Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 10:24; 3:13) Remember to look for specific ways to encourage your spouse. Rejoice at even small improvements.