

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Prepare Kids for Marriage

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Genesis 1:27, 2:24

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1175

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2023 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Many marriages in America end in divorce.
  - i) This is a national tragedy.
- b) We need to have compassion on those who are divorced.
  - i) This is not a time to point a finger of accusation or blame.
  - ii) It is a time to open our hearts, homes, and churches.
  - iii) It is a time to tell them that in Jesus Christ, there is love, mercy, forgiveness, and restoration.
  - iv) They need a helping hand, and they need love.
- c) We need to work on marriages and put up some guardrails.
  - i) We need to have more marriage counseling seminars.
  - ii) We need more preaching on how to have a happy home.
  - iii) We need better teaching.
  - iv) But the main thing we need to do is to train our kids about marriage.
- d) It is easier to get a marriage license than it is to get a driver's license.
  - i) A person has to study and take a test in order to get a driver's license.
  - ii) It is easy to get a marriage license, yet marriage is so fraught with the potential for good and ill.
- e) We need to prepare our kids for marriage because if we do not, then who is going to do it?
  - i) Marriage is one of the most vital and meaningful relationships that they will ever enter into.
  - ii) There are three big decisions in life:
    - (1) Life's mission
    - (2) Life's master
    - (3) Life's mate
      - (a) Parents need to be right in the middle of preparing their children for all three.
- f) There is a vicious cycle.
  - i) Those who come from broken homes tend to have broken homes.
    - (1) Broken homes produce broken humans who produce broken homes.
  - ii) We need to break this cycle.
    - (1) We cannot do anything about our ancestors, but we can do something about our descendants.
      - (a) Psalm 112:2
        - (i) By the grace and power of God, we can train our children to be blessed to break that cycle.
- g) One of the greatest problems in marriages today is inadequate preparation for marriage.
  - i) The average bride and groom spend far more time preparing for the wedding than they do the marriage.
  - ii) The Bible says that we are to train up a child in the way that he should go.
    - (1) Proverbs 22:6
      - (a) This verse says to "train" instead of to "teach."

- (2) Anything that we teach a child, someone else can come along and teach him something different.
- (3) When we train a child, we build something into that child.
- iii) There is no greater training than to prepare them for marriage.
  - (1) It is the ministry of the church, of parents, grandparents, and pastors to prepare our kids for marriage.
- h) God's purpose for man:
  - i) Genesis 1:27
    - (1) There is the masculinity and the femininity of the human race.
      - (a) God did not create she-men and he-women.
      - (b) God created men, and God created women.
        - (i) God made them different that He might make them one.
      - (c) A man is never to lose his masculinity, and a woman is never to give up her femininity.
    - (2) A woman is superior to a man at being a woman.
    - (3) A man is superior to a woman at being a man.
    - (4) Any society that blurs the distinction between male and female is headed for disintegration and disaster.
    - (5) Parents need to encourage masculinity in boys and femininity in girls.
  - ii) After each thing that God created, He said that it was good.
    - (1) Genesis 1:31
  - iii) Then, in Genesis 2:18, God said that it was not good for man to be alone.
    - (1) In this verse, "helpmeet" means a helper that is a fit for him or someone that will match him just right.
    - (2) Adam was in perfect health, in a perfect environment, and he had communion with God; yet, God said that something was not good.
      - (a) Adam needed a helper; he needed someone by his side.
  - iv) Genesis 2:19
    - (1) God told Adam to name the animals.
    - (2) God was using Heavenly psychology on Adam.
      - (a) God was creating a thirst and a desire in Adam for a bride.
        - (i) Whatever God wants us to have, He first gives us a thirst for.
          - 1. God wants us to have Jesus; He gives us a thirst for Jesus.
          - 2. God wants us to have a spouse; He gives us a thirst for a spouse.
    - (3) Adam saw that for each animal there was a male and a female.
      - (a) But there was no one like him.
        - (i) God was building a desire in the heart of Adam.
  - v) Genesis 2:20-23
    - (1) The Hebrew scholars tell us that a loose translation of what Adam said in verse 23 was, "Wow! This is it!"
  - vi) Genesis 2:24
    - (1) This is a key verse of Scripture, and it contains three verbs that we're to take notice of:

- (a) Leave
- (b) Cleave
- (c) Be one flesh
  - (i) This gives an outline for preparing any child for marriage.
  - (ii) This sums up the marriage relationship.
  - (iii) In these three verbs, we have the priority of marriage, the permanence of marriage, and the purpose of marriage.
    - 1. We will be looking at the meaning of these in today's message.

## 2) THE PRIORITY OF MARRIAGE

- a) The priority of marriage is summed up in the word "leave."
  - i) Genesis 2:24
- b) The relationship of parent and child is a wonderful relationship, but the Bible teaches that there is a higher relationship.
  - i) It is the husband and wife relationship.
- c) The parent's job is to prepare their child to leave.
  - i) This is painful; it is difficult to give up our children.
  - ii) God made parents with a need to be needed.
  - iii) When a child is born, that child just has needs.
    - (1) He or she does not need to be needed.
  - iv) There are two kinds of love:
    - (1) Need-to-be-needed love
    - (2) Need-love
      - (a) This is the reason parents and children fall in love immediately.
        - (i) It is something that God gives.
      - (b) Mark 9:24
      - (c) The parent has a need to be needed, and the child has a need.
        - (i) This is the bonding that God has put there.
  - v) The parent is to work himself out of a job and to bring the child to the place where he no longer needs the parent.
    - (1) Parents are to build into their children principles of love, character, and maturity so that they can go out into the world.
    - (2) No longer do they have to be dependent upon the parents.
    - (3) They can be the individuals that God intended for them to be.
- d) As a child grows up and matures, that child takes on more responsibility.
  - i) He wants to be his own person.
    - (1) This is natural and normal.
    - (2) This is the way God intended it to be.
  - ii) But when many teenagers begin to be their own person, the parents begin to be threatened.
    - (1) The child progressively no longer needs the parents, but sometimes the parents still have a need to be needed.
      - (a) So, there becomes a point of tension.

- (2) Many times, the parents will begin to create artificial needs to keep the child still tied to them because the parent still has that need to be needed.
    - (a) At that point, the child will try to break away.
    - (b) If the parent continues to have unnatural demands, the child may become rebellious, and the relationship is broken.
      - (i) A lot of so-called teenage rebellion starts right there; not with the teenager, but with the parent who will not work himself out of a job.
  - e) Parents should work themselves out of a job but not out of a relationship.
    - i) No longer are the parents their children's chaperone.
      - (1) The parents become their friends.
    - ii) The tighter the grip the parents hold on their kids, the more the kids are going to want to get away.
    - iii) The more parents teach their children to function as their own and the more parents give them the freedom that God wants them to have, the more they want to be their parents' friends.
      - (1) That is the way God intended.
    - iv) There are times that they are going to make mistakes.
      - (1) Parents have to allow them to make some mistakes but not big mistakes.
  - f) God's highest priority is for one man to be married to one woman till death do them part, and that priority is higher than the priority between parents and children.
    - i) Genesis 2:24
    - ii) This is the word "leave."
- 3) THE PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE
- a) The word "cleave" means "to weld," "to glue," or "to fasten together in an unbreakable bond."
    - i) Genesis 2:24
  - b) Marriage is to be God's superglue.
  - c) Mark 10:7-9
  - d) Divorce is a transgression of the will, the law, and the purpose of God.
  - e) Parents need to teach their children that divorce is not an option.
    - i) Two people who begin their marriage with the idea that if it does not work out then they will get a divorce are highly likely to get a divorce.
    - ii) Two people who begin a marriage with a total commitment that no matter happens they are going to stay together are likely to make it.
  - f) Divorce is not God's plan.
    - i) Genesis 2:24
  - g) People who get divorced and people who do not get divorced have the same kinds of problems.
    - i) Anyone who is married has problems.

- h) God's plan is to cleave.
  - i) Ephesians 5:25
    - i) This is not a request; this is a command.
    - ii) It is not our love that sustains our marriage as much as it is our marriage that sustains our love.
      - (1) It is the commitment that sustains that love and keeps it going.
  - j) Divorce is the only game people play where both sides lose.
    - i) There is no such thing as a no-fault divorce.
      - (1) If there is a divorce, then someone is at fault; and most likely, it is two people.
  - k) We need to teach our children that the highest earthly commitment that we have, one of permanency, is marriage.
    - i) Our priority is our home.
    - ii) Because of the priority of that home, Jesus speaks of the permanence of that home.
      - (1) This is the word "cleave."
- 4) THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE
- a) The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh.
    - i) This is where a husband and wife become something together that they could never have been apart.
  - b) Genesis 2:24
    - i) When the Bible says that they shall be one flesh, it is not just talking about the union of bodies.
      - (1) It includes that, but it is more than that.
    - ii) A person does not marry a body; a person marries another person who has a body, soul, and spirit (a triune person).
  - c) We are to be one flesh physically.
    - i) There is to be the union of the body.
    - ii) There is nothing impure about sex.
      - (1) Sex is a gift of God.
        - (a) It is a way of saying, "I love you," that cannot be put into words.
    - iii) When God says that we are to flee fornication and to not commit adultery, He is not trying to keep sex from us.
      - (1) God is trying to keep sex for us.
        - (a) He does not want it corrupted or distorted.
      - (2) 1 Corinthians 6:18
      - (3) Exodus 20:14
  - d) We are to be one flesh psychologically.
    - i) Not only is there to be a marriage of bodies, but there is also a marriage of souls.
    - ii) We are to be joined together in our egos, minds, wills, hearts, and love.
    - iii) Not only should we be sweethearts, but we also ought to be friends.
    - iv) Not only should we love one another, but we should also like each other.

- e) We are to be one flesh spiritually.
  - i) There is to be a blending of spirits.
  - ii) Together, a husband and wife should praise the Lord, study the Word of God, pray, and worship God.
- f) There is no higher communion than someone who is one flesh physically, one flesh psychologically, and one flesh spiritually.
  - i) The Bible says that a threefold cord is not easily broken.
    - (1) Ecclesiastes 4:12

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) A husband and wife are to be one.
  - i) They are to be one physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
  - ii) This is God's plan.
    - (1) This is how God made man to function.
  - iii) Parents are to teach their children this.
    - (1) Children are to see this in their home.
- b) Prepare your kids for marriage around these three words:
  - i) Leave
  - ii) Cleave
  - iii) Be one flesh
- c) May the Lord give us people who will maximize marriage, prioritize marriage, and who will pay the price in commitment in spite of the difficulties, in order to build Christian homes.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16