

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Marriage: The Real Thing

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1417

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) When we understand that God made us as human beings, then we can understand what marriage is all about.
- b) When God made us, He made us in His image.
 - i) God is a triune God.
 - (1) There are three parts to the nature of God:
 - (a) God the Father
 - (b) God the Son
 - (c) God the Holy Spirit
 - (i) Three in one and one in three.
 - ii) There are three parts to our nature:
 - (1) Body
 - (2) Soul
 - (3) Spirit
- c) 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- d) When a husband and wife come together, the husband's spirit, soul, and body are united with his wife's spirit, soul, and body.
- e) The Bible teaches that there is a difference between spirit and soul.
 - i) Hebrews 4:12
 - ii) With our body, we have physical life and physical relationships.
 - (1) With our body, we know the physical world, the world beneath us.
 - iii) With our soul, we have psychological life.
 - (1) The Greek word for soul is "psyche."
 - (a) This is the word that we get the words "psychiatry" and "psychology" from.
 - (2) The soul is the self, the ego, the "I," and the "me."
 - (3) With our souls, we have psychological relationships.
 - iv) Our spirit is the part of our nature that makes us in the image of God.
 - (1) The Bible says that God is a Spirit.
 - (a) John 4:24
 - (2) With our spirit, we have spiritual relationships.
 - (3) We know God through the Spirit.
 - (a) When we get saved, God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we're children of God.
 - (i) Romans 8:16
 - (4) The Spirit of God dwells in Christians.
 - (a) The Holy Spirit in the human spirit.
 - (i) That is what makes us a Christian.
 - f) Plants have a body, but they don't have a soul.
 - g) Animals have a body and a soul, but they don't have a spirit.
 - h) Only man and woman have a spirit.
 - i) With our body, we know the world beneath us.
 - j) With our soul, we know the world around us.
 - k) With our spirit, we know the world above us.

- l) When our body is right, we are healthy.
- m) When our soul is right, we are happy.
- n) When our spirit is right, we are holy.
- o) God wants us to be healthy, happy and holy, but in reverse order.
- p) What does this have to do with marriage?
 - i) We need to understand who is getting married.
 - (1) A body, soul and spirit marry another body, soul, and spirit.
 - ii) God says that they are no longer two, but they become one flesh.
 - (1) Mark 10:8
 - (2) God's arithmetic is one plus one equals one.
 - (3) We are to be one physically, one psychologically, and one spiritually.
- q) In today's message, we will look at three things that happen when a man and woman are married:
 - i) There is to be the union of your bodies because you are a body.
 - ii) There is to be the union of your souls because you are a soul.
 - iii) There is to be the union of your spirit because you are a spirit.

2) THERE IS TO BE THE UNION OF YOUR BODIES

- a) The reason why some marriages do not last is because they are just one-third married.
 - i) There is only the union of their bodies.
- b) When people get married, there is the union of their bodies.
 - i) There is nothing impure about this.
 - ii) Intimacy is a wonderful gift of God.
 - (1) When a husband and wife come together physically and intimately, this is one of God's sweetest gifts to them.
- c) The sexual relationship is not only for procreation.
 - i) In the Bible, when a husband and wife would come together in the marriage act, the Bible would say that he knew his wife.
 - (1) The Bible calls the marriage act "knowing someone."
 - ii) The marriage act is a form of communication.
 - (1) It is a way of knowing someone.
 - (2) It is a way of saying "I love you" that cannot be put into words.
- d) Sometimes we have been taught to think of sex as dirty or impure.
 - i) Outside the bonds of matrimony, it is.
 - ii) Inside the bonds of matrimony, it is pure and wonderful.
- e) The Bible says that marriage is honorable and the bed undefiled, but it also says that adulterers and whoremongers, God will judge.
 - i) Hebrews 13:4
- f) When the Bibles says not to commit adultery and to flee fornication, it is very important that we understand this.
 - i) Exodus 20:14
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - iii) God is not trying to keep sex from us; God is keeping sex for us.

- iv) When God put these high walls around sex, it is because it is valuable.
 - (1) God wants to cherish this for a husband and wife as His special gift to them.
 - g) Don't get the idea that in your physical relationship, you will start in the crescendo of joy.
 - i) If you will keep God's law concerning the physical relationship, then you will find that your joy will increase as you try not to receive satisfaction but to give satisfaction and joy to the other person.
 - h) Don't be envious of the crowd in the fast track or the playboy philosophy.
 - i) People who keep God's laws concerning sex enjoy sex more than those who break God's laws.
 - (1) Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," He is just saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
 - (2) Every time God says, "Thou shalt," He is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
 - i) There will be the union of your bodies, and this is called a healthy marriage.
- 3) THERE WILL BE THE UNION OF YOUR SOULS
- a) Not only will you come together physically, but you will also become one flesh psychologically.
 - b) Not only should you love each other, but you should also like each other.
 - i) We have often heard the phrase, "Can't live with them, and can't live without them."
 - (1) This should not be.
 - ii) There should be the oneness of soul where a husband and wife enjoy one another.
 - c) You should not just be sweethearts but friends.
 - i) Everyone needs a friend.
 - ii) If the friend is the one to whom you are married, then you can share the same things and do the same things together.
 - iii) You will need to cultivate your friendship.
 - d) When you are dating, there is a lot of romance; but it is after you are married that you will get to know one another.
 - e) Opposites attract.
 - i) Not only are boys and girls attracted to each other physically, but opposites also attract psychologically.
 - ii) We see in the other person that which is missing in us.
 - iii) Opposites attract physically.
 - (1) A man says that woman was taken out of him, and he is incomplete without her.
 - (a) That is the reason why she is called his better half or the other part of him.
 - iv) Many times, opposites attract psychologically.

- (1) Sometimes a person who is very fastidious and cannot stand anything not in its place will marry a person who is sloppy.
 - (a) The sloppy person sees the fastidious person and likes the way he or she has it all together.
 - (b) The fastidious person likes the sloppy person's free and easy way.
 - (2) We see in the other person strengths where we have weaknesses.
 - (a) We don't figure this out in our heads; it is very subliminal.
 - (3) Many times, an extrovert will marry an introvert, early risers will marry late sleepers, a spend-thrift will marry a penny-pincher, and so forth.
 - (a) In doing this, we are trying to supplement weaknesses that we see in ourselves or form strengths that we see in our partner.
 - f) The same things that caused an attraction before marriage will cause friction after marriage.
 - i) If you understand that this is why you got married, then you can laugh at it and just accept it.
 - ii) Marriage is like buying a record.
 - (1) You buy it because you want what is on one side, and you take what comes on the other side.
 - (a) It is the same way when you get married.
 - iii) Don't marry someone thinking that you are going to make them over.
 - (1) Just accept the differences.
 - (2) Remember that God put those differences in them to help both of you to grow in patience, to learn from the other, and to encourage one another.
 - g) You will have problems adjusting to one another.
 - i) Even couples who have been married a long time are still getting adjusted to one another because they are changing all of the time.
 - ii) You will adjust to one another as long as you live.
 - iii) It will take a lot of prayer.
 - iv) You will need some help.
 - (1) Don't be too proud to go to someone as a counselor or as a friend, preferably a pastor or a trusted, dedicated Christian who is full of maturity.
 - (2) As much as your parents love you, it is probably not wise to take all of your problems to your parents.
 - (a) Genesis 2:24
- 4) THERE MUST BE A UNION OF YOUR SPIRITS (ECCLESIASTES 4:12)
- a) In everyone's life there is a throne.
 - i) By nature, we are full of self.
 - ii) And self wants to be on that throne.
 - b) Suppose there is a fictitious couple named James and Mary.
 - i) James is on the throne of his own life.

- ii) Mary is on the throne of her life.
- iii) King James and Queen Marry decide that they are going to get married.
 - (1) But both of them still are on the thrones of their lives.
- iv) They get married and move into one apartment.
 - (1) There are two kingdoms under one roof.
 - (a) Jesus said that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.
 - (i) Mark 3:24
- v) Sooner or later, there will be a war between those two kingdoms.
 - (1) Most arguments are ego against ego or self against self.
 - (2) There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
- vi) After a while, a tragedy comes along called a divorce.
 - (1) Divorce is not an option in the Bible.
 - (a) Malachi 2:16
 - (b) Marriage is a lifetime contract.
- vii) What would happen if King James became a Christian?
 - (1) In order for him to become a Christian, then King James has to step down from the throne of his life.
- viii) If Queen Mary becomes a Christian, then she steps down off the throne of her life and enthrones King Jesus.
- ix) How many kingdoms are there?
 - (1) Just one kingdom because Jesus rules both thrones.
 - (2) Here is a wonderful secret:
 - (a) The Jesus in James is not going to fight the Jesus in Mary.
 - (b) The Jesus in Mary is not going to fight the Jesus in James.
 - (3) If Christ in on the throne of both lives, then they will be one spiritually.
 - (a) They will be able to pray together and worship together.
- c) When we are one spiritually, it is much easier to be one psychologically.
 - i) Where is the problem psychologically, and why can't we heal our arguments?
 - (1) Because of ego.
 - ii) When we take self off the throne and enthrone Christ, we can solve those problems.
- d) When we are one spiritually, then we become one psychologically.
- e) When we are one psychologically, it is much easier to be one physically because we cannot be arguing one moment and having romance the next.
 - i) It is all tied together.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) A lot of people do not realize that their relationship with God in Heaven is linked to their relationship to one another, even in the physical act of marriage.
- b) Because of the spiritual relationship, the Bible says that the husband is the head of the home.

- i) Ephesians 5:23
- c) The husband is to love the wife as Christ loved the church, and Christ died for the church.
 - i) Ephesians 5:25
 - ii) Are you willing to die to yourself?
 - iii) Are you willing to put her first and to live for her sacrificially?
- d) Jesus said that as the church is subject to Christ, wives are to be subject to their own husbands in everything.
 - i) Ephesians 5:24
 - ii) Are you willing to be in submission to your husband, to pray for him, and to do him good and not evil all the days of your life?
- e) Commit your life to Jesus, to one another, and to His church.
 - i) Be faithful.
 - ii) When you look back, you will say that it was truly worth it.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) 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