

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Seven Secrets of Lasting Love

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Peter 3:1-10

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The great miracle is not love at first sight.
 - i) It is love after a long look.
 - (1) That you continue to love.
- b) 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - i) In verse 3, the word “conversation” literally means “lifestyle.”
 - ii) God not only gives instructions in this passage, but Peter also gives the example of Abraham and Sarah.
 - (1) Abraham was the patriarch in the Old Testament.
 - (2) Sarah was Abraham’s wife.
 - (3) Peter speaks of them as examples of how to keep love alive.
- c) Abraham and Sarah had plenty of problems.
 - i) They had family pressures.
 - ii) They were on the move.
 - (1) They were nomads.
 - iii) They lived in a tent.
 - (1) They didn’t live in a beautiful home like many of us do.
 - iv) They had dreams that were basically unfulfilled.
 - (1) Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker was God.
 - v) Abraham had an affair with Hagar and produced a son by a woman who was not his true wife.
 - vi) They had problems with their children.
 - vii) Abraham failed to protect Sarah as he should have.
 - (1) He told a half-truth to protect himself.
 - (a) That half-truth turned out to be a whole lie.
 - viii) They had problems of increasing age.
- d) Abraham and Sarah made it through increasing age, the fiery passions of youth, and the middle age.
 - i) They made it through all of that, and they stayed together.
- e) How do you stay together?
 - i) In today’s message, we will look at seven principles from the Word of God for lasting love.

2) FORTIFY FAITH (1 PETER 3:5, 7)

- a) 1 Peter 3:5
 - i) Notice the phrase in verse 5, “Holy women who trusted in God.”
- b) 1 Peter 3:7
- c) Abraham was the father of the faithful.
- d) We cannot have the kind of home that we should have without trusting in the Lord.
- e) The Bible says that a threefold cord is not easily broken.
 - i) Ecclesiastes 4:12
 - ii) A threefold cord is a man, a woman, and God Himself.
- f) God should be first in our lives, and our husband or wife should be second.

- i) We can love our spouse more by putting them second than we ever could by putting them first.
 - g) 1 Peter 3:7
 - i) “Heirs together” are joint heirs.
 - (1) This means share and share alike.
 - (2) There is no male superiority or female inferiority when it comes to trusting God.
 - h) Galatians 3:28
 - i) The spiritual oneness that a husband and wife have is the oneness in Christ Jesus.
 - (1) They are one in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) The very first thing that we must do is to fortify faith.
- 3) REMEMBER ROLES (1 PETER 3:1, 7)
 - a) God has a role for the man, and God has a role for the woman.
 - b) What is the role for the wife?
 - i) 1 Peter 3:1
 - (1) The Greek word “idios” means “special husband” or “individual husband.”
 - c) 1 Peter 3:7
 - d) Husbands and wives are spiritually equal, but they are not the same.
 - i) God made us different that He might make us one.
 - ii) It is the devil’s guise to attempt to make men and women alike under the guise of making them equal.
 - (1) They are equal, but they are not alike.
 - iii) God made the husband with a harder exterior; He made the wife gentle and fragile.
 - iv) God calls the woman the weaker vessel, not the inferior vessel.
 - (1) Steel is stronger than gold and porcelain.
 - (a) We can drive a spike with a sledgehammer, but we cannot drink tea out of it.
 - (i) We drink tea out of a porcelain teacup.
 - (2) Silk is more fragile and more beautiful than denim.
 - (a) This does not mean that denim, because it is stronger, is intrinsically worth more.
 - e) God has given the husband the headship in the home.
 - f) The woman is to be in submission to her husband.
 - i) This is not inferiority.
 - ii) Submission is one equal voluntarily placing himself under another equal that God may be glorified.
 - (1) We are never more like the devil than when we are in rebellion.
 - (2) We are never more like the Lord Jesus Christ than when we have a submissive spirit.
 - iii) This is voluntary submissiveness.

- (1) The husband is the head of the home.
 - (a) He is not the boss of the home.
 - g) Jesus is the head of the church.
 - i) Jesus never makes us do anything.
 - ii) Jesus leads by servant love.
 - h) Most women do not mind being in subjection to a man who loves her enough to die for her and shows it by the way he lives for her.
 - i) Headship for the husband does not mean privilege.
 - i) It means responsibility.
 - (1) Just like the shepherd is responsible for the sheep, and the parent is responsible for the child.
 - (2) The husband has a responsibility before God.
 - j) Marriage is not a contract.
 - i) Marriage is a covenant where two people mutually enter together.
 - ii) When marriage is looked at as a contract, we begin to look for ways that we might break the contract.
 - iii) When marriage is looked at as a covenant, we think about our responsibilities.
- 4) CULTIVATE CONTENTMENT (1 PETER 3:3-4, 7)
 - a) 1 Peter 3:7
 - b) Abraham and Sarah were blessed financially.
 - i) Abraham was very wealthy.
 - ii) Some godly people are very wealthy.
 - c) Abraham and Sarah did not put their wealth first.
 - i) They were willing to leave the comfort of home, house, friends, and family, to live in a tent to do whatever God wanted them to do.
 - d) If you want to have a happy marriage, then learn that you can do without anything except God, one another, and the basic necessities of life.
 - i) That is all you need in order to keep you happy.
 - e) 1 Peter 3:3
 - i) Sometimes a part of this verse is misinterpreted.
 - ii) Some people use this to say that women should not fix their hair or wear jewelry.
 - (1) Peter was saying that these things are not the secret of your beauty.
 - f) What made Sarah beautiful?
 - i) The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.
 - ii) 1 Peter 3:4
 - (1) The real enhancement is the inner person.
 - (2) The word “meek” here does not mean weak or mousy.
 - (a) It means a person who has themselves under God’s control.
 - (b) The word “meek” was used of soldiers in the Roman army.
 - (i) They were not weak and mousy; they were under control.
 - (3) A quiet spirit does not mean that a person does not say anything.

- (a) It speaks of serenity and contentment.
 - (i) You have to learn contentment.
 - g) Philippians 4:11
 - h) A wise man once said that to whom little is not enough, nothing is enough.
- 5) BANISH BITTERNESS (1 PETER 3:8-10)
 - a) 1 Peter 3:8-10
 - i) Don't be bitter.
 - (1) It is better to be the better half, not the bitter half.
 - b) Homes will have a lot of attacks.
 - i) There are three kinds of attacks that come against a home:
 - (1) Earthquakes
 - (a) There are some things that shake us to the very foundation.
 - (2) Woodpeckers
 - (a) They are always beating on our home.
 - (3) Termites
 - (a) When termites get into the foundation, they silently eat away.
 - (b) These are the little things from which bitterness comes.
 - c) Abraham and Sarah had serious problems.
 - d) 1 Peter 3:9
 - e) There are three levels of life:
 - i) The devilish level
 - (1) This is when someone returns evil for good.
 - (a) The devil does this.
 - ii) The human level
 - (1) This is when someone returns good for good and evil for evil.
 - (a) This is what the average person does.
 - iii) The heavenly level
 - (1) This is when a child of God, if he would love life and see good days, will return good for evil.
 - f) 1 Peter 2:21-23
 - i) In this passage, Peter tells about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Peter was setting this up for marriage.
 - g) There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.
 - i) We should just banish bitterness and attack the problem rather than attacking one another.
 - ii) It may be something small, like getting a splinter in your finger.
 - (1) You could get a needle and take the splinter out.
 - (a) But it could be painful; so, you decide to leave the splinter in your finger.
 - (2) A few nights later, you wake up with a throbbing pain.
 - (a) The finger is twice the size it should be and is infected.
 - (3) It is the little things that bring infection into our lives.
 - h) Do not go to bed angry.

- i) Ephesians 4:26
 - i) Banish bitterness; don't be getting back at one another.
- 6) CONTINUE COMMUNICATION (1 PETER 3:8-10)
- a) 1 Peter 3:8-10
 - i) This passage of Scripture speaks of communication.
 - b) Abraham and Sarah were very different.
 - i) Apart from the grace of God, they would not have stayed together.
 - (1) The grace of God allows for communication.
 - c) Opposites attract.
 - i) What attracts us before marriage may drive us crazy after marriage.
 - ii) The wife has character qualities and emotional strengths that the husband needs and vice versa.
 - (1) That is the reason that God put them together.
 - d) Psychologists tell us that when people go for counseling, most of it deals with learning to communicate.
 - e) Proverbs 18:21
 - f) 1 Peter 3:10
 - g) Communication is important.
 - i) It is what we call intimacy.
 - ii) It is the secret of lasting love.
 - h) It is the husband, by and large, who is the communication problem.
 - i) While women read articles on "Seven Ways to Be More Intimate with Your Husband," men read "Seven Ways to Get Better Gas Mileage."
 - (1) We have to learn to communicate.
 - i) A happy marriage is learning to have a good date life.
 - j) There are four kinds of dates that everyone needs to make:
 - i) A regular date with God.
 - (1) Do you have a place where you get alone with God and have a quiet time with God?
 - (a) If not, then you are not going to be able to communicate and fellowship.
 - ii) A date with your kids.
 - (1) Take them out by themselves, apart from the others.
 - (2) Give them your utmost attention.
 - iii) A date with yourself.
 - (1) All of us need a time when we can just get alone and do the things that we need to do.
 - (a) Just have a little space and something that is fulfilling.
 - iv) A date with your spouse.
 - (1) A regular time is more important than lots of time.
 - (2) Have a time where the two of you are together.

7) REFRESH ROMANCE (1 PETER 3:7)

a) 1 Peter 3:7

i) In this verse, the words “dwell with them” are translated in some translations as “live together with them.”

(1) When we talk about people living together, what we mean in today’s society is that they are sharing the same bed.

(a) This is the idea here in the Greek language, also.

(b) They are together physically, dwelling together, and living together.

(2) It speaks of sexual mutuality, the physical side of marriage.

b) It is important to express love physically, not just in the coming together as husband and wife, but all through life to keep the romance going.

i) Keep the hugs going.

ii) Always reach out to one another.

c) Many men want the courtship to end, but never let it end.

i) Never cease flirting with your wife.

ii) Never flirt with any other woman.

(1) Don’t call the waitress “sweetheart.”

(a) She is not your sweetheart.

(b) You have one sweetheart.

iii) Keep your wife number one.

d) “Giving honor.”

i) 1 Peter 3:7

ii) Open the car door for her.

iii) This literally speaks of courtesy.

iv) Complement one another constantly.

v) Learn to give honor.

e) Keep the romance in marriage.

8) PRACTICE PRAYER (1 PETER 3:7)

a) This is most important.

b) 1 Peter 3:7

i) “That your prayers be not hindered.”

(1) That means husbands and wives should pray together.

c) Psalm 127:1

d) God answers prayer.

e) Most men do not want to pray with women because they have a hard outer shell.

i) But humble yourself, get on your knees with your wife, and practice prayer.

ii) Let her hear you praying.

iii) Let her hear you pouring out your heart before God.

(1) It will give her great confidence and great comfort.

9) CONCLUSION

- a) Your home may be in shambles right now.
 - i) This means that you need God all the more.
 - ii) Your love may be getting cold, and maybe you need a fresh start.
- b) You may be widowed or divorced and have a home, but you are living by yourself and are lonely.
- c) God meets all of these needs.
- d) Maybe your home has been broken.
 - i) God heals the brokenhearted.
- e) Whoever you are, wherever you are, there is always a fresh start with God.
- f) God wants everyone to have three homes:
 - i) A family home.
 - ii) A church home.
 - iii) A Heavenly home.
 - (1) Jesus is the key to all three of these.
- g) If you are not certain that you are saved and going to Heaven, then you can be certain.
 - i) You can know that you are saved.
- h) Being saved is not just being a nicer person or just keeping rules.
 - i) It is receiving a gift.
- i) Jesus died for you, and paid for your sin with His blood.
 - i) Romans 6:23
 - ii) Would you like to receive that gift?
- j) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- k) 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