



Sermon: March 4, 2018

Verses Covered

Genesis 2:18

Genesis 2:21 – 23

Proverbs 17:1

Proverbs 19:13

Proverbs 21:9, 19

Proverbs 25:24

Proverbs 27:15 – 16

1 Peter 3:1 – 2

Proverbs 31:10, 12, 20, 28, 25, 26, 30

So one of the deacons last Sunday, when they left the church, looked at his wife and said, “Don’t even think about having a sore throat next Sunday. The only way you’re not going to church is if you’re in the hospital.” So nothing more fun than speaking to women. Now for years I have done a practice; you can, and I don’t do it every month, but if you read five Psalms and one chapter of Proverbs a day, you can finish both books in a month. It’s a great practice, and kind of inculcates some wisdom, but in doing that I read through the books, but I’ve never really studied Proverbs until I started preparing for us walking through the book. It’s been interesting, though, what I’ve discovered. Particularly with what it says in regard to the family. What it seems to do is it addresses the role that I have and probably the way in which I will fail in that role. For example, I talked about the parents, remember that they face Christ, but in facing Christ, that they’re to bring discipline in the lives of their children. It’s where parents struggle the most. I don’t know how many times, we have a son who, I don’t know if you have a kid like this, we have a son that always, no matter how hold he was, three on, had a better idea than we did about everything in the house. So I would come home and Peg would be there and she’d meet me and she’d just be in tears and say, “I’ve just disciplined him all day. He’s not going to ever get it.” And there’s a point at which the discipline is fatiguing. And so you kind of have a tendency to back off. And so Proverbs says to us as parents, “Make sure you discipline your children.” Why? So that they know when you walk towards Jesus they know where the edges of the road are.

It said to the men, and it says it in several different places, we didn’t read all of them. It said in several different places, and part of it because it’s pretty graphic, but in several different places it says to the men, do not, basically, turn away with your eye or your heart from your wife. That you’re to be intoxicated with her emotionally and physically. And that is the difficulty for a man because what enriches the woman inside a connected relationship is irritating to the man and so all

of a sudden we have this really difficult thing and the man has a tendency to turn away. And so the Bible addresses it as, “I agape my wife.” That is, I look at her in the same way Jesus looks at her. Which if you do that settles everything about your wife. So it addresses that.

And then it comes to address you ladies. Now we’re going to start in the book of Genesis, OK. We’ll come back to Proverbs. We’ll come back to the bad part in a minute. I’ve instructed the police, they’re all down here just in case I need there. So here it is. Genesis 2:18. Listen to what it says. Remember Adam and Eve don’t sin until chapter 3. So the role of submission is inherent in Genesis 2. Paul’s going to make the argument in one of his books that the whole basis of submission is inside the creation story. Here it is. Genesis 2:18.

¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

So He does that. Verse 21:

²¹Lord 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. ²²He fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

There is a submissive role here. Now here’s the thing. There’s no sin. So there’s nothing, and so she’s his helpmeet, right, which means the only way she can help him is by verbalizing what he needs help on. He’s not going to need any help spiritually because he’s holy. Now she may once in a while pull him aside and say, “Did you see, today, what God painted for us in the evening?” So there’s probably that kind of sharing, but no corrective because he’s holy. They’re connected. There’s no problem there. Now today, when speak like 75,000 words a day, men speak 25,000, in this day they were both at 1,200. I’m sure that’s true. Always trust the pastor. So neither one of them, the man’s not going, “Baby, I’ve got to go to sleep.” And the woman’s not going, “But I haven’t told you everything.” So they’re connected well. Now she is to help him though, obviously. She’s going to verbalize in a couple of areas. Number one: he’s going to plant things, he’s an agrarian guy, he’s planting and he’s ranching. So you know if he wants to plant some broccoli, she would obviously correct him and say, “No, dove season’s coming, we need some jalapeno’s to wrap the dove around when we shoot them.” Assuming she was from Texas when they were created. Because I’m sure the Garden of Eden’s somewhere in this state. So but then she’s also going to help him, right, name the animals. That was his job. There was a lot of freedom inside their relationship that she has to, she’s going to help him name the animals, speak to them. He looks at an animal and says, “I think this is a cat.” She’s going to say, “No, baby, God told us cats are not coming until after we sin. That’s a dog.” So I’ll get some e-mails on that one. So she’s going to verbally speak to him, but there’s really no problem, right. There is no sin. She doesn’t have to correct him spiritually. She doesn’t have to correct him emotionally. And they simply, in all these areas, share, right. But then the problem comes in Genesis 3. When they fall and they eat the fruit and God confronts them, he says, “Adam where are you?” Over here hiding. So they’ve already lost Him. Their spiritual life is broken. They’re broken with each other because he’s going to look at God and say, “The woman you gave me told me what to eat.” He’s going to

pin all the blame, not even with her name. So when they're booted out of the garden, there's broken connection. The world is broken. Now he needs more help than ever because nothing planted comes up. There are thorns, there are thistles, difficulties, so now inside, after Genesis 3, now her verbal assistance, and it has to be verbal, has to come now in all three areas. She's going to have to correct him sometimes spiritually because he's not holy anymore. And so there will be times when he's walking in the wrong way and her responsibility as his helpmeet, she can't do that if she just stands there and hopes he turns the right way. She has to verbally speak to him and say, "Baby, this is where God would have us to go. This is not where we ought to be going." So she has to do that. She has to speak to him verbally when the connection process between them is broken.

Now ladies I want you to listen to me real carefully, OK. I've said this a million times. I can't use the word that I want to use because you don't want your little children to hear the word that is synonymous with dumb. So I asked our guide in Israel, what's a word, a Hebrew phrase for a man that's dumb. And he said, "*Rosch Padisch*", which in Hebrew means, knuckle-head. So your husband is a *rosch padisch*. Now what that means is this, ladies. Whatever you tell him you need today, he will not remember tomorrow. You say, "But..." No! There are not buts. He won't remember tomorrow or the next day or the next day. You have to tell him tomorrow what you need. "Well if he loved me he's..." He's *rosch padisch*. How long will he be *rosch padisch*? Until you stand in front of his casket. That's how long. "Well if he loved me he'd..." He loves you, but he's *rosch padisch*. *rosch padisch* is not a choice; it is a gifting. We don't mean to do it. We don't mean to be that way. We don't get up in the morning and go, "You know what I'll do today is irritate my wife so she chews me out." That is not our heartbeat. We're *rosch padisch*; we're not that bad *rosch padisch*. But understand that's our gift. We don't need what you need, so we forget what you need. So you're going to have to remind us. "I'm not going to do that." Then you're going to be one unhappy woman because he's not going to remember. And you are his helpmeet. So your job is to help him spiritually and emotionally and, obviously, inside, as she did with naming the animals, an agrarian, your responsibility is to assist him in his calling.

Now here's the problem. You live in submission. The problem for ladies comes, and this is what Proverbs addresses, the problem for ladies comes, you're in submission to this guy, you come to him and you say, "This is not where we're supposed to go." And he doesn't quit. He continues down a road that you know is not where God want him to go. Then you speak to him about how to connect with you and he doesn't do that. And he continues down a road of disconnection from you and now you're in submission to a man who isn't loving you as Christ loved the church and you're in submission to a man who is not walking correctly with Christ. This is where the temptation comes to you. Look in Proverbs, we're going to start in 17:1. Now we're going to read several verses, but listen to what it says. Proverbs 17:1.

¹Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.

Look at 19:13.

¹³A foolish son is destruction to his father, and the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

Look at 21:9.

⁹It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Look at verse 19 of 19, or of 21.

¹⁹It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and vexing woman.

Look at 25:24.

²⁴It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Look at 27:15 and 16.

¹⁵A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike; ¹⁶he who would restrain her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

And then you stay there, I'm going to read you this passage out of 1 Peter.

¹In the same way, you wives, you 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.

Now here's what happens. You're stuck in a relationship in submission to a man who is not walking with Jesus and who is not loving you. You're to help him so you've got to verbalize. But the problem comes when he does not respond to your verbal direction. And because you're stuck in this relationship and you're watching this thing go south, both spiritually and emotionally, you've got kids in the situation. You're watching them come up in this and you're struggling with what they're seeing between the two of you and watching dad and his lack of walk with Jesus Christ and all of a sudden you are tempted to begin to desperately try to control the situation with your tongue. That's why Peter says, "If your husband is not a believer, you win him without a word." That doesn't mean you don't tell him about Jesus. If your husband is not a believer, at some point you have got to sit down with him and say, "Baby, listen, you and I are sinners. Jesus is not. His blood is the ransom payment. Saved me. It can save you." There you go. You have to say what you know. When it says, without a word, your husband's not walking where he's supposed to be, your responsibility as his helpmeet is to speak to him where he's going wrong. Your responsibility is to speak to him where he is not connecting with you and loving you correctly. But the temptation is, you ladies, when he does not respond; you've got children in the home, they're watching dad, you're seeing this occur, it becomes incredibly tempting to try to control your husband with your tongue. At which point you become quarrelsome, contentious, and listen to me carefully, you're overstepping the role of the Holy Spirit of God. It is not your role to convict your husband. That is the responsibility of the third person of the trinity. Your role is to bring truth and that's it. It is difficult when you're living in submission to a man who is not walking with Christ, he's not loving you properly, that you ache and you hurt and your struggle. And it becomes immensely difficult and you begin to desperately try to pull him back to Jesus and back to you. But in reality what happens is this is what's killing marriages. We've got men who

are being tempted to turn away from their wives and the wife senses this and she begins to hang on with verbal attack and rancor and anger which pushes him further away and pretty soon you have this catch-22 in the home and you're done. Even if you keep the ring on, you're done in the marriage. Whereas if you have a guy that says, "You know what I'm going to walk with Jesus. You say I'm not connecting with you. Let's talk about that." He comes back to you. He stands with Christ. You share. You don't have to control him. You have a catch-22 the opposite way. Marriages are only one of two things. They're really good or really bad. And the problem for a man, he has a tendency to turn away from his wife. The problem with a lady; she begins to try to control that turn. And so it becomes difficult.

So what do you do? He answers that in the last chapter. Look in Proverbs 31. Look at verse 10.

¹⁰An excellent wife, who can find? Her worth is far above jewels.

Now ladies, listen to me. Listen to me. You let Jesus Christ decide whether or not you're an excellent wife, not your husband. You let Jesus confirm in your heart if you're an excellent wife. That's between you and Christ because of you are excellent wives and your husbands don't value it. And they don't speak to it and they don't honor it and they don't respect it and they don't love it. So I don't want you tying the value of your excellency to a man who doesn't honor who you are in Jesus Christ. I want you tying it to your Savior because He's the one that matters anyway. Now look at what he says, verse 12.

¹²She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

I want you to base your excellency on Christ. Number two: I want you to look at your husband and bless him all the days of your life. Now listen, because the question I got Thursday morning when I went through with the women was a great question. It's the question most women ask. It was an excellent question. She said, "Well what if he doesn't change?" It doesn't say anything about his changing. You are not in the marriage to change him. You're in the marriage to love him. You're in the marriage to respect him. You're in the marriage to do him good all the days of your life. Whether he changes or doesn't change has no bearing. Your goal isn't to change your husband. When your goal becomes, "I'm going to change him and make him like Jesus, I'm going to make him love me." Then your tongue will overreact and become contentious and quarrelsome and he will back away from who you are. You say, "Well if I do it right he still doesn't connect." Not your problem. You do him good all the days of your life. Look down in verse 20.

²⁰She extends her hand to the poor, she stretches out her hands to the needy.

Look at 28.

²⁸Her children rise up and bless her;

So you want to do two other things. You want to make sure that your ministry in your life is to your children and outside your family. You don't want to just focus on your family. You want to

focus on your family and outside your family because you may need people outside your home. Then he says, look at 25.

²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, she smiles at the future.

How do you smile at the future when your husband is not responsive to your pleading? When you say, “Baby I need you to connect with me.” And he’s not responsive. You say, “Listen we’re not walking the way Christ wants us to walk as a family.” And he’s not responsive, how do you in that setting smile at the future? One way. You trust that God will speak through who you are and what you say if you keep it to the direct minimum. Now he has free will, ladies. And he may not respond. But your job is to live in a way that the Holy Spirit hits him because if you don’t do that you usurp the role of the Holy Spirit and then the Holy Spirit can’t speak to him. Now it doesn’t always happen like this, but I had a lady come into my office in Midland. Her husband was an alcoholic; not just wine before dinner. He was an alcoholic. Two or three nights he’d go out and get drunk, come home stoned, I mean it was horrible. He’d been this way for a number of years. So she came into my office, she said “I’ve cajoled him. I’ve done exactly Proverbs all the way through, 17:1 all the way through.” I said, “Look, stop it. Obviously what you’ve said is not impacting him. I want you to go home. Not say another word to him. He knows how you feel. He already knows what you feel. You go home. You ask Jesus to deal with his heart.” Now it doesn’t always happen this way. This was Friday afternoon. Sunday morning her husband walks the aisle, grabs my hand, he says, “I want to get rid of all my alcohol. I want Jesus to take every bit of it away.” He becomes sober that Sunday. Now it doesn’t always happen that way, but here’s the interesting take for me. I was in Midland ’81 to ’86. So in the oilfield it’s high to dead. There’s a point at which he is, he’s got a little repairing sucker rods for the oilfield and he’s making money hands over fist. He’s in Vegas all the time. He gave, one year, all the employees in his business, probably 10 or 12, their Christmas bonus was \$60,000. I mean he was just hands over, just money everywhere. So the oilfield dries up, his kind of niche business dries up, and I’ll never forget this as long as I live, we’re sitting at The Kettle in Midland. And he looks at me and he says, “Can you explain to me why when I was getting drunk two or three times a week I was money everywhere, and now that I’ve come to Jesus, I can barely keep my home? Can you explain that to me?” I said, “Harland, I can’t. I can just tell you you’ve got to follow Jesus.” So his son called me a few years later to do his funeral. I flew back to Midland, pulled his son aside and I said, “I’ve got to ask you, did your dad ever go back to the alcohol?” He said, “Chris, he never touched it again.” Now let me tell you something ladies, if she had talked him out of the alcohol, he’d have gone back to it when his world cratered. But when Jesus deals with a man, he puts a conviction in the soul that even the loss of everything cannot undo. So if you want to drive your husband off your tongue; fine. But you’re going to end up in a bad place. You let the Holy Spirit’s tongue convict your husbands. That’s your call. And it is difficult because we don’t love you well, we don’t walk well, and you’re stuck with who we are. I understand that. But that’s your calling. And then look at this, verse 26:

²⁶She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Her mouth, wisdom; her tongue, kindness. You ask God to let you know what to say to your husband, wisdom. You ask Him to let you know how to say it, kindness. You speak, don’t let your husband tell you, “You quit talking.” Listen, you speak to your husband. That is your

responsibility or you're not a helpmeet. You're just sitting there. But you ask God for wisdom and you ask Him for kindness. And then look at this. Verse 30.

³⁰Charm's deceitful, beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Ladies, that may not come from your husband. But if it comes from Jesus, that is what really matters. Now ladies you have a hard call is you marry. I don't debate that at all. It's far harder, I think, than our call. You're stuck with a man that struggles with connection. You're stuck with men that are not holy. Some of you have married well. You've done well. You've got a guy that's holy. You've got a guy that does everything he can to connect with you. Man, that's great, you know this. Some of you don't. But I'm just telling you, ladies, you have to live out the principles of scripture regardless of what kind of man you have in the home. At the end of the day, all that really matters; if your husband thinks well of you, that's great. But if he doesn't, you want to go to the grave with Jesus OK with who you are. And that is the greatest honor in life.

Let's pray.

Father I do ask You for the ladies here that are not married. Father let them don't date or look at a man that doesn't value your son and doesn't seek their heart. Father for the men in this room that are married to women that live out a submissive heart, let them go home today and try their best to walk with Your Son and do their best to connect with their wife. Father for the women that are in this room today that are alone, let them feel Your heart toward them when they can't feel their husbands heart toward them. And thank You for Your love and Your honor and Your care for the ladies in this church who struggle in a home. Honor them, bless them, and thank You for what they represent to those in this world that Jesus is bigger than even a dysfunctional home. Honor them. In Jesus Christ name.