

## **LESSON 18: FAMILY: HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP PART 2**

### **HUSBAND AND WIFE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Read Ephesians 5:33**

- ▶ What are the different responsibilities of the husband and the wife?

Husbands are called to love; while wives are called to respect. It is the man's role as the head of the home to make sure things work. The wife must respect that in her husband.

### **PERSONALITY**

It is important to realize that there are differences between men and women that will never change. First, men will never be able to feel what women feel. They will never feel as deeply or be as detailed as women.

Second, there are differences of personalities in every home. There are four general categories, and everyone is generally two out of the four.

- ❖ Sanguine: Happy, go-lucky, friendly, vivacious. These people recharge with people. They often lose things and are not well organized, but they wake up in the morning with a smile.
- ❖ Melancholy: List maker, detailed, self-critical, organized, generally the most gifted of the personalities. These people can be the hardest to live with. A common question used to determine if you are a melancholy is "when your husband tells you that he thinks you are beautiful, do you struggle and have difficulty believing that about yourself?"
- ❖ Choleric: Leaders in the world, type A, able to make the hard decisions. These people usually end up in leadership positions and direct organizations.
- ❖ Phlegmatic: a generally nice person. They don't like conflict and avoid it at all costs, which can be dangerous in a marriage. Some consider them lazy, but they are not. They have difficulty telling anyone "no" and often are worn out.

It is very common for someone to marry someone of opposite personalities. People tend to fall in love with the strengths they do not have and see in someone else. The problems come when you have to deal with their weakness as well as their strengths.

- ▶ What are some of the benefits of having different personalities?

One of the benefits of marrying someone with a different personality is that if you have children, at least one parent will be able to relate to the child better because they have similar personalities. It can also be beneficial to have different personalities because this can enhance your ministry as a couple. If you minister together, then you bring not just one but two types of giftedness into the ministry.

- ▶ So what can we do about the differences in personalities?

Nothing. You cannot change your personality or your spouse's personality.

## **SEXUALITY**

Marriage is comprised of three parts, the body, soul, and spirit. The body is so that we can relate to each other physically. Our soul is so that we can relate to each other emotionally. The spirit is so that we can relate to God.

If your marriage is going to be holistic, then you have to touch each other in all three areas.

- ▶ How is sexuality different between men and women?

Men are romanced in their body, and women are romanced in their soul. Women are romanced by how they are treated, while men are romanced by any kind of physical touch and visibility.

Men do not feel loved unless his wife desires him physically and enjoys him physically. This is why in 1 Corinthians it says that your body is not your own, you have to yield to your husband and the husband has to yield to the wife.

- ▶ What happens when children are thrown into the marriage?

First, the woman usually loses sexual desire for a period of time. The husband does not understand this and it is very hard for him. Next, the couple begins to build their lives around the children. More time is spent with the children than with each other. Communication is affected by centering mainly on the children and not other things in their lives. Intimacy becomes episodic at best. When the children leave the home, the couple often finds themselves staring at each other wondering what to talk about now that the kids are gone.

- ▶ Should there be any limit to the sexuality?

Anything is legitimate sexually as long as the two are in agreement, and it is not in the kinky realm. You have to talk to each other about how you can best please each other.

## **DIFFERENT LOVE LANGUAGES**

There are a variety of different love languages: words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, and physical touch. These love languages help us to identify how we are best touched in the soul. Again, like personalities, people often are married to someone with the a different love language.

It is important to not belittle the other person's love language and to accept it for the good intentions behind it. You must also learn your spouse's love language and give to him or her in the appropriate manner to touch his or her soul.

### **RESPECT VS. LOVE and GIVE VS. TAKE**

As mentioned in Ephesians 5:33, women are desperate to feel loved while men are desperate to feel respected. It is important to make the decision to love your spouse no matter the circumstances. You must depend on the Lord to provide for your needs and give to your spouse, not take.

### **PRACTICAL STEPS**

Here are some practical steps to help improve your relationship with your spouse.

1. Take about 30 minutes a day to simply talk to each other. If you have children, then make the rule that children cannot come up during this 30 minutes.
2. Take one night a week for a date night. During this time share what the Lord has taught you this week.
3. Take a piece of paper and make three columns: physical, emotional, and spiritual. Write down in detail what you want from your spouse in each category. Once you are finished, exchange lists. It is a good idea to reread this list often and try to do at least one item from the list every day. This will help your spouse feel loved and respected and strengthen your relationship.
4. Make time about three times a year to leave town without friends, family, phone calls, etc. and have time with just each other. During this trip, ask each other how you are doing on the other's list. Are you both feeling loved and respected? What can be done differently?