

THE HOME AS GOD WOULD HAVE IT

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

- Introduction:
1. We live in a time when the home is under attack.
 2. The God ordained institution of marriage is obviously not bringing the kind of happiness God intended it to bring (Genesis 2:18).
 3. This lesson is designed to present God's plan for a happy home.

I. Contemporary Attacks Against The Home As God Would Have It

- A. Educational Attacks.
1. Sociology.
 - a. "The patriarchal marriage system of the Judeo-Christian tradition, based on an agrarian economy, is simply outmoded today" (*Open Marriage*, p. 22).
 - b. "The demand that marriage should entail sexual monogamy may have made sense in an era when contraception was largely impossible and questions of lineage were of considerable moment" (*Sociology: Concepts And Characteristics*, p. 185).
- B. Religious Attacks.
1. "If people do not believe it is wrong to have sex relations outside marriage, it isn't, unless they hurt themselves, their partners, or others" (*Situation Ethics*, p. 140).
 2. "Even the most hard fast moralists of our day have surely come to see that the sex relationship has too many sacred potentialities to be locked up in any human institution" (*An Open End To Christian Morals*, p. 127).
- C. Attacks In General.
1. The Feminist Movement.
 2. The Homosexual Movement.
 3. Humanism.
 4. The Media.

II. The Solution To These Contemporary Attacks

- A. (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- B. The role of the wife.
1. Be submissive (Ephesians 5:22-24).
 - a. The nature of this submission.
 - 1) As unto the Lord (5:22).
 - 2) As the church is subject to Christ (5:24).
 - 3) In everything (5:24).
- C. The role of the husband.
1. Love your wife (Ephesians 5:25-33).
 - a. The nature of this love.
 - 1) A saving love (5:23).
 - 2) A sacrificial love (5:25).

3) A tender love (5:29).

- Conclusion:
1. God has given us a blueprint for successful marriages.
 2. The best defense is a good offense—the best thing we can do to defend the home against its many attackers is to demonstrate what God intended for the home to be.

“The old ship of matrimony that god launched in the Garden of Eden has been caught in a cyclone of change. Of every dozen wedded couples, four will jump overboard, six will stay lashed on deck because of utilitarian interests —children, career, family, church, etc...—without joy or love, and only two will enjoy what Dr. Joyce Brothers calls ‘total’ marriages, where they will share a lifetime of happiness...Some very loud voices are shouting that wedlock is a padlock which leads to deadlock and that the first institution God established has outlived its usefulness” (*Rx For Marital Illness*, p. 70).