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PLAIN TALK ABOUT DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 51
EPHESIANS 5:3-5

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EPHESIANS 5:3-5 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

(This may be the plainest, frankest talk we have ever had together concerning a most important subject. There was a day when things of this kind were taught in the public schools, but that time is no more. There was a time when the Ten Commandments were memorized by every school child, but times have changed. Therefore, it falls to the church to spell these things out loud and clear. We dedicate this to the young people of the church and ask that they hear this message which will be loud and clear.) Please remember, these things are in the Bible.

Some people believe that once you become a Christian you can't have any fun. Well, to tell the truth, you can't have maximum fun until you do become a Christian and until you put your Christianity into your daily living. Of course, a lot of people in the world haven't discovered this truth yet.

At the outset, please remember that God never reaches in and tampers with your free will. But God does give us a fantastic amount of information that helps us find the way to happiness and peace. Now some people will read a passage like this one we have before us and will hit the panic button and will begin to think that when you become a Christian, all your happiness has gone out the window. So please get this straight right in the beginning of this message--in order to have a happy life, you have to develop the capacity to take in truth that you find in the Scripture.

We are all aware of the fact that many people allow the details of life to make them miserable. The harder they search for happiness the more happiness evades them. But the only real way you can get happiness and keep it is to load your mind down with Bible truth.

EPHESIANS 5:3 "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" The word "fornication" means adultery. It comes from the Greek word "porneia" and it was so terrible in the Greek mind that they didn't even pronounce this word in public. It was a dirty word that you would find written on the walls. It refers to an immoral act of sexual activity.

THE DOCTRINE OF ADULTERY

(Let me remind you to relax and be at ease and don't get all up tight when something like this is mentioned. Keep a straight face and don't nudge anyone when some point is made that pleases you, and don't try to think about all those people you know who are guilty of these things. Just mind your own business and don't let your self-righteousness keep you from learning the truth. You ought to know this so you can communicate this truth to your children and to your friends and associates. So here in plain terms is what the Bible says about this. So plan to keep this paper and know the truth. Don't let your mind and customs and what people say keep you from getting the truth, the whole truth.)

1. ADULTERY IS PROHIBITED BY THE WORD OF GOD.

EXODUS 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

DEUTERONOMY 5:18 "Neither shalt thou commit adultery."

These two verses are quotations from the Ten Commandments. When people only know one commandment, they know this one. This one and "Thou shalt not steal." This is a part of the Law of Moses. We used to memorize this in school but they don't do that any more.

2. MENTAL ADULTERY IS ALSO CONDEMNED.

MATTHEW 5:27-28 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

In such prohibitions is God trying to eliminate things that are for our fun and enjoyment? NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!

3. ADULTERY CAUSES SCAR-TISSUE ON THE SOUL.

PROVERBS 6:32 "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."

EPHESIANS 4:19 "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness

4. GOD HAS SET UP LAWS FOR PLEASURE AND PUNISHMENT.

The frustration and punishment of adultery is seen in the word "pleonezia" and this is the word translated "covetousness" in this verse, but it means a frantic search for happiness and the details of life. Adultery has an effect on the soul, as we saw in point 3. But it also has a disasterous effect on the body and this is taught in 1 Cor. 6:13-18. The physical effect adultery has on the body is this--it causes the breakdown of the ability to receive the blessing from sex that God originally designed for it to bring to you. It brings equal frustration to the male and the female. There are millions who have walked the road of the promiscuous sex life and have lived by free love and free sex and they would tell you it has brought disaster and ruin to them. This kind of living is a monster that sooner or later will turn on you like a vicious beast.

5. ADULTERY IS A BONA FIDE BASIS FOR DIVORCE.

MATTHEW 5:32 "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

MATTHEW 19:9 "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

LUKE 16:18 "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

Now why is this true? The reason is this. The resultant scar tissue this adulterous activity brings destroys physical, mental and spiritual compatibility. Adultery disrupts life in every way. It is one of the great disruptive frustrating forces eating at the foundation of this nation today. A husband and wife can't be compatible and have adultery going on. Incompatibility destroys a home, and destroys the stability of children and sends many juveniles into delinquency. When God forbids fornication and adultery, he has in mind many things--children, the church, the nation, and everything worthwhile.

6. IN THE BIBLE ADULTERY IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE SPIRITUAL APOSTASY
We call this spiritual adultery and this is explained in passages such as Jeremiah 3:8-10, Ezekiel 16:23-43, Ezekiel 23:24-28 and Revelation 17:1-5.

7. MARRIAGE IS THE SANCTIFICATION OF LOVE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN. In marriage the body, mind and soul is involved.
1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-4 "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;"

HEBREWS 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."
Marriage is a divine institution but it doesn't mean marriage is a guarantee for happiness. Incompatibility comes from having the wrong partner.

8. THE GLORY OF LOVE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IN MARRIAGE IS EXPLAINED AS AN ANALOGY TO DOCTRINE.
In passages like 1 Cor. 11:7 and Ephesians 5:25-28 we find this analogy.

9. THE APPLICATION OF THIS KIND OF LOVE TO THE SINGLE PERSON.
These are principles.

A. The right man and right woman are designed by God in eternity past. This is a divine design in eternity past. There exists for the single person a right person in the divine design. This is part of God's perfect plan.

B. The exception is a rare case of celibacy or the law of supreme sacrifice. (The Apostle Paul is an illustration.)

C. Every believer will eventually find the right partner if he is willing to put this in God's hands.
(I know girls who are 16 and they haven't had a date in ten days and they and their mothers are about to hit the panic button. DON'T! Just wait for things to happen naturally.)
God will bring this person to you in the right time--His time.

GENESIS 2:18 "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

GENESIS 2:22 "And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

Please remember, God brought Eve to Adam at the right time. (I suppose that is where that song originated as Adam began to sing "No Longer Lonely.")

- D. However, there is no benefit in meeting your right opposite number unless you have waited on the Lord and are living by his Word and the faith-rest technique. There is one person for you, tailor made for you, and no cheap substitute will do. So, young people, don't settle for any substitute.
- E. FORNICATION OR ADULTERY IS ACCEPTING A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE. This activity will only satisfy a biological or emotional urge.
- F. The faith-rest technique recognizes this principle of doctrine and avoids fornication. (The illustration is Joseph in Egypt. He waited for the right woman to come along.)
- G. Fornication builds scar tissue on the soul and destroys the benefits from meeting the right person. Therefore, Ephesians 5:3 is a great warning from God.
- H. Maximum benefits come from married love when the partners have minds that are saturated with the Word of God. Maximum Bible truth in the mind will provide a maximum capacity to love.
(In our day the rise of homosexuality and lesbianism is a disgrace to the stability of the nation. God never designed a man for a man and a woman for a woman. If the law and society ever recognizes these relationships as legitimate, it will certainly be contrary to the plain teaching of the Word of God. This kind of activity is not by divine design. It is a sin not a sickness. This queer and abnormal situation destroys everything uplifting and fine in life. It is a modern tragedy.)
- I. The framework for expression of love is marriage. God's kind of marriage is right man and right woman. Now how can you know when you meet the right person? IF YOU KNOW THE WORD OF GOD, IT WILL PROVIDE YOU A BUILT-IN RADAR THAT WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE RIGHT PERSON COMES ALONG. The Word of God straightens out your mind and will give guidance to your will. John 7:17.

So the word "covetousness" is from "pleonezia" and this brings scar-tissue into the soul. This causes one to go on a frantic search for happiness. This Scripture says, "Let it not be once named" and the word is "anomazo." This is a very unusual use of a Greek word to give a command. It really means "Let it not so even as much as be known among you." In other words, fill your mind so completely with the truth of the Word of God that it will be impossible for such evil thoughts to even be entertained for one moment in your mind. "As if befitting saints" means that perfect happiness is the thing that is befitting to the saints.

EPHESIANS 5:4 "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." The word for filthiness is "aischrotes" and it refers to inner ugliness in the soul. The word foolish talking is from "morologia" and it means human viewpoint which you put up against God's viewpoint.

The word jesting is from "eutrapeleia" and it means a conversation that is low and sordid. It means suggestive conversation which leads to immorality. This word means "making a pass at someone with immorality in mind." This is step No. 1 toward adultery and immorality. Sooner or later all single girls will be face to face with "eutrapeleia." They better be prepared for it. This is straight, frank speaking but that is exactly what Paul is doing here and every girl in this room better listen with both ears. The words "which are not convenient" come from the word "aneko" and it means that this is not up to God's standard for you. "But rather giving thanks" means that your inner information will stabilize you through experiences like this and when you get through them, then you are in the position to give thanks to God for guarding you.

EPHESIANS 5:5 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." Instead of "for this ye know" the Greek says, "Knowing, you have known" and uses both the Greek words for know, "oida" and "Ginosko." "Oida" is the inherent knowledge you already have in your mind, and "ginosko" is what you come to know as you study and learn.

The word "whoremonger" is from the word "Pornos" and in our terms, it means pimp. Above we saw that the word jesting refers to the guy that makes a pass at you. But the pimp is the one who is in the full-time business of making others immoral. Young people need to know these things and I remind you that Ephesians five has been in the Word of God for over 1900 years and many of you are just now learning what these words really mean. But tonight I am talking Koine English from Koine Greek. "Nor unclean person" comes from the word "akathartos" and this means a girl-collector for immoral purposes. That's why these pimps prey on young innocent girls and they are so low down you can't even compare them to the lowest dog.

Then it speaks of the "idolator" and this is referring to the awful "phallic cult" where they went to the heathen temples and worshipped the sexual organs and used immorality as an act of worship to their heathen gods. Their whole worship was sexual activity. These are unbelievers and they have no place in the Kingdom of God.