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WILL GOD PICK THE RIGHT PARTNER FOR YOU?

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 60
EPHESIANS 5:22

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EPHESIANS 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

The reason we resent authority, and we all resent authority more or less, is because of approbation lust which is a part of our old sin nature. Anyone who fails to recognize systems of authority in the human race destroys the basic function of his own free will.

Man's Total Depravity

All of us understand rather clearly man's total depravity. We know that all have sinned and have come short of the glory of God. We know the Bible is correct when it tells us that there is not a righteous man upon the earth who doeth good and sinneth not. This is just contrary to the liberal view of the concept of the dignity of man and the so-called fact that all men are created equal. The correct view is that all men are born into the world unequal, unequal in physical ability, unequal in mental ability, and unequal in almost every realm you can name. No one is born into the world with any spiritual ability. But there is one area of equality in the human race and it is at this point--every man is born with free will. Each man has the right of privacy and has the right to think for himself and make decisions for himself. Under the concept of the mentality of the soul, each person has the right to think for himself and make decisions for himself.

The Authority Of The Pastor-Teacher

Closely related to our free will, our right to privacy, and our right to think for ourselves, is another related doctrine. We must come under the authority of another if we are to learn. We sit still, we open our ears and listen (just like I hope you are doing now) and we take in truth. In this way we respect the authority of the pastor-teacher. Under this concept of surrendering some of your freedom to the pastor-teacher is this more important concept--WHAT YOU THINK OF THE LORD AND HIS WORD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPT IN YOUR LEARNING PROCESS. Whether you like the voice or the personality or the method of presentation of the pastor-teacher is not too important. But whether you submit yourself to the authority he teaches from Scripture is of maximum importance.

Look again at EPHESIANS 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." This verse refers to your submission to authority in the local church. Now I realize the psychology in our day is to resent all authority. Have we not seen this resentment of authority in the school system where there has been a resentment almost equal to an explosion? And in the home we have seen how a whole generation of young people have almost come to hate any kind of parental authority. Now if this rebellion continues and is not checked, this lack of authority may destroy the public school system and it may destroy the institution we have known as the home. Even in the military there has been a rebellion and the armed forces are greatly weakened today because of disregard for authority in the line of command.

The Necessity For Authority

Let us think again about the fact that we got here tonight by observing laws of authority. You had to stop at stop lights in order to get here safely. You had to drive on the right side of the road in order to make it to the parking lot outside this church. (At least I hope you drove on the right side of the road.) There isn't one person listening to me who didn't observe some kind of authority so you could be here tonight. Authority is absolutely necessary in order for us to live together in order and peace. No authority means chaos, breakdown and disorder. Most every person in this room is in some position on the scale of management and labor, and there is authority all the way up and down the line.

EPHESIANS 5:22 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." In this verse the authority in the home is clearly stated. God says that the husband is the authority in the home over his wife and his family. This is the plan and purpose of God. This authority was designed by God in order to protect freedom in the family. We laugh about what we call "Woman's Lib," but at the foundation of this movement is a disregard for the basic authority God built into the framework of marriage and family life. No woman in America today is in as safe a place as when she is under the authority of the right husband. God designed it this way and it will be this way until the end of time. Authority is your greatest protection. Isn't it strange that we resent so bitterly the very principle which has saved our lives so often?

Illustration

The next time you drive up to a red light and you sit there longer than you think you should, let me suggest a little "chit chat" that you might inaugurate with that red light that might change the situation. The little monologue might go something like this--"Old buddy, you've turned red on me lots of times and I have been so busy and have been rushing so frantically, I have never paused to thank you for the part you play in protecting me. But today is a rare day and I want to pause and give thanks for red lights." Then if you want to ease the pain of such a conversation as that you might add, "Turn green, big boy, for I'm in a hurry!"

Now this verse 22 in Ephesians 5 was written for believers. Down in verse 33 we have a word for those who are not believers, in fact there is a word for the whole human race of women when it says, "Women are to reverence their husbands."

Authority In Ephesians 5 and 6

Half of the problems of the world could be solved if we could just learn this principle of authority. Later on in these chapters of Ephesians we will see other areas of authority. We will read about children obeying their parents, and about servants obeying their masters. So all through here you see the words submit, and obey. Now why all this emphasis on authority? It is simply this--life is constituted this way and in order for there to be freedom and system and order, there has to be authority. When we refuse obedience and authority, then life begins to break down.

Illustration

As I was writing this paper the winter olympics were in progress in Innsbruck, Austria. I watched the skating and the hockey games and the skiing. I noticed how every participant had to observe very carefully laid out rules. They were performing under the rugged regulations of authority. If they broke out of a lane or violated the prescribed boundaries, they were immediately disqualified. I saw years of training come to naught as far as winning a medal was concerned at the point of the violation of authority.

The End Of The Book Of Ephesians

When we finally come to the end of our study of Ephesians, Paul will remind us that we are in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict. Paul will tell us to put on the whole armor of God in order to be able to stay in the thick of the battle. So any way you take it, remember, authority was designed for your protection and your blessing. This whole thing is a part of the Angelic Conflict and authority is based on Bible doctrine.

The Principle Of Right Man and Right Woman

This doctrine goes all the way back to Genesis 2. In Genesis 2 we observe the first marriage. God saw to it that Adam was the right man and Eve was the right woman.

GENESIS 2:20 "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him." Here we observe Adam alone. There was no woman in existence. Adam was in innocence, with a body, soul, and spirit and no old sin nature. Adam had fellowship with God through talks he had with Jesus Christ. Christ assigned the task to Adam to name all of the animal creation and he performed that task perfectly. He named all the animals just as Christ had told him to do. But when Adam came to the end of this task, he had found that all the animals had mates, and all the other creatures had mates, but there was found no mate for him. The Hebrew words are "ezer penegdo" and it means "Help of his counterpart." In other words, man was incomplete without his counterpart. Remember, no man is an island. No man stands alone. This first man would have authority over his counterpart, but he would be incomplete without her.

Illustration

I am pastor of Immanuel, but suppose I showed up one Sunday morning and stood up to preach and no one was in the auditorium. Now wouldn't that be something! But the point is this, I am incomplete without you. I have authority to give you God's message, but you must be here and listen in order for the chain of authority to be completed.

Adam in the Garden of Eden was incomplete and he never would be complete until the Lord created Eve and brought her to Adam. (My father had a little framed saying that hung in his room all his married life. It went like this--"Woman is the completion of man and no man should be without a copy.")

Please notice that God provided ONE woman for Adam, and only one. And God has provided one woman for each man, and only one. (This does not mean if a husband or wife dies that the one who is left should not marry again.) And let us remember this, God never gets his wires crossed and provides the wrong partner.

ECCLESIASTES 9:9 "Live Joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun." This verse gives the principle for this divine provision. The principle is based on right man, right woman. God says, "Live joyfully." This verse applies to the unbeliever as well as the believer. How do I know? Because in the verse it says, "The life of thy vanity, which means emptiness."

So the truth of this verse is for unbelievers as well as believers. Right man and right woman was a principle God designed for the whole human race. Now if an unbeliever refuses to believe in Christ, he will eventually die and go to Hell. He will get discipline from God all along the way because he does not believe in Christ. But remember this if an unbeliever gets the right woman as a partner, he can "live joyfully" as this verse says, but this will be the only heaven he will experience. And remember this--having had the right woman for a partner won't do you one bit of good in hell.

Now in the case of the believer it is different. The believer can have the blessings which come from the Edification Complex in the soul, plus fellowship with God, plus growth in grace, plus the glorious happiness which comes from being married to the right partner.

GENESIS 2:21-22 "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Here is stated the principle of God's provision. God provided Adam with the right woman at the right time, not a minute early or a minute late. Back in verse 20 we were told that man had not found his "exact counterpart." Now what does that suggest? It suggests that if you put your life in the hands of God, he will provide for you an exact counterpart just like he did for Adam.

I could wish that all the young people of this church would take a three by five inch card and print these words of Genesis 2:21-22 on it and read these words over every day. Please notice that Adam didn't work for his right partner, she was provided for him on a grace basis. God did this for Adam and God will do this for you.

7 Points On Genesis 2:21-22

1. God provided Adam with his exact perfect counterpart.
2. It was a painless process. God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam and God did this all by himself.
3. The woman was taken from man, was a part of him. God built her out of a part of Adam's own body and brought her back to Adam as the completion of his body.
4. This teaches us once and for all this truth. If a man will wait on God, God will bring his partner to him.

5. In Genesis 2:23 Adam said, "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." In other words, God's provision satisfied Adam completely.
6. Adam named the woman "Ishah" because she was taken from "Ish." She was the extension and the completion of Adam.
7. GENESIS 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."
This is a prophecy made by Adam to state once and forever God's plan for the human race. Adam didn't have any father or mother. He couldn't have spoken this from experience, it had to be prophecy. God told him exactly what to say. This is the doctrine of right man and right woman. Think of what a different world this would have been if men and women had only been willing to listen to this prophecy.

A Note To Young People

There are many people in this room who will never have the opportunity to go back and make amends for the mistake they may have made in the selection of a mate. But there are many of you who still have this decision before you. Let it be recorded here that I reminded you to place this decision in the hands of God. Wait on Him, and just as sure as he acted in Eden for Adam, he will act in your behalf today. THE RIGHT PARTNER IS WORTH WAITING FOR, AND I BEG YOU, DON'T TAKE ANY CHEAP SUBSTITUTE. So put this golden doctrine in your mind right now-- RIGHT MAN AND RIGHT WOMAN. This is one of God's beautiful doctrines to guard your life and to glorify the physical side of your marriage. God's plan is his assurance of the happiness he has stored up for you. Don't sell out for a mess of potage in a New York minute! God's prize awaiting you is too great, so don't miss it!