

Oxford Baptist Church April 10, 2016

Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Series: Relationships: Improving Our Connections

Message: God's Purpose for Marriage: Oneness

Scripture: Genesis 2:18-25; Eph 5:15-33

What do men and women want in a marriage? Better

Question: What is God's purpose or desire for marriage? Why did he create it? Everything God created was good. (Genesis 1:10, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25) God created man and women in his image (Genesis 1:31; 2:19-25).

Biblical Conclusions: Men and women are equally honoured by God. Equally honoured in creation (Gen 1:27). Equally honored in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:27-28). Men and women are different, uniquely and wonderfully fashioned by God. Accept and appreciate the differences. We are designed to support each other so think partnership and team (Eph 5:21).

The Purpose of Marriage is Oneness in Every aspect of the relationship. Genesis 2:24; Eph 5:31

Marriage is two people (a man and a woman) who have committed themselves to take individual responsibility to work together for the fulfillment of each other through a mutually submissive partnering relationship of oneness with Jesus Christ.

Oneness in Christian marriage is built on three levels.

1. **Spiritual Oneness – The Foundation (Eph 5:21)**
 - Your beliefs and your basis for living.
 - Who really meets my needs?

Our greatest needs: Salvation, Security and Significance.

2. **Soul Oneness** – Communication, knowing each other, friendship. Love and Respect. Eph 5:21,22, 25
 - Is this relationship going to be about Manipulation, an arrangement or ministry to one another?
 - John 15:11-13; Matt 7:12
 - Building Blocks of Grace and Acceptance.
3. **Physical Oneness** – Physical and Sexual Relationship Eph 5:31

Physical Oneness is an exclusive relationship between you in your marriage commitment as the Lord designed it for your pleasure and protection.

Life Group Questions

Read again the Biblical passages found in Genesis 2:18-25 and Ephesians 5:15-33. What are the similarities and differences in these passages regarding healthy marriage relationships?

Discuss why "Oneness" is God's purpose for marriage?

Review Mark 12:30 and discuss why there are four sides of love? How does this view of love make a difference in our friendships and marriages?

What are the three levels of Oneness? How does the world and Christian thinking differ on the order of their importance?

Why is spiritual oneness such an important aspect in considering a marriage partner? What are the strengths of seeking spiritual oneness? What are the negatives or pitfalls when you do not consider the spiritual beliefs, values and life direction of others?

What was your greatest take away from this message on Sunday?

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

When you realize how much God loves you through Jesus Christ you are able to love appropriately in Biblical relationships. Four loves of Scripture – Agape, Storge, Phileo, Eros.

Four Sides of Love

- **Heart – Passion ---- Hot Side**
- **Soul – Intimacy ---- Warm Side**
- **Mind – Commitment – Cold Side of Love**
- **Strength – physical side of love.**

7 Characteristics of a Healthy Marriage – David Field's Book – Marriage Personalities.

- 1. Time Together**
- 2. Strong Spiritual Emphasis**

Worship Together – pray together, pray for each other on a daily basis. Prayer develops the spiritual intimacy between a Christian husband and wife. It is our greatest spiritual weapon to guard us from division. Are you praying together on a regular basis? Are you encouraging each other by your prayers for each other? **Do you share what God is teaching you from your personal study of the scriptures?**

- 3. Negotiating ability. (Able to Listen and respond without defensiveness.**
- 4. Maturity –(Humility, Perseverance, Loyalty – Trust)**
- 5. Play and Humour (Having a good time together – Laughter)**
- 6. Intimacy (Appreciation, Attraction, Physical encounter and prayer**

7. Commitment. (Exclusiveness)

Couple Exercise

Take a few minutes as a couple to rate the four sides of Love in your relationship between one and five? What could make things better?

Take a few minutes as a couple to rate the three levels of Oneness - What is one thing that could make it better for you in each area of oneness?

“Every Couple has differences and disagreements. Healthy couples find ways to resolve marital disputes without turning them into marital wars. Couples who accept and appreciated the fact that their partner has independent opinions tend to reach successful and satisfying resolutions.” (Building a Strong Marriage Workbook pg. 12)

Notes

The Five Most Basic Needs of a Man and A Women Willard F. Harley...

Needs of a Women 1) Affection 2) Conversation – She needs Him to talk to Her 3) Honesty and Openness -- She needs to trust him totally. 4) Financial Support --- She needs enough to meet the needs of the family. 5) Family commitment – She needs him to be a good Father.

Needs of a Man 1) Sexual Fulfillment 2) Recreational Companionship – Fun and Play 3) An Attractive Spouse - Looking after Herself 4) Domestic Support - He needs his home to be a safe place/Oasis 5) Admiration /Respect - He needs Her to be Proud or Admire Him.

Greatest Need of a Man..... Love Respect/Significance. “Wives respect your husbands.” Eph 5

Greatest Need of a Women - Secure Love ---Husbands Love and Sacrifice for your wives....

A boy came home from Sunday school and His Mother said, "What did you discuss at Church?" The boy said, "Marriage"! His Mother said inquisitively, "What did you learn about marriage?" The little boy thought for a moment and said, "Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!"

The story is told of a man and woman who had been married for over 60 years. They had shared everything except there was one secret in their marriage. The wife had a shoe box in the top of her closet, and she had cautioned her husband never to open it and never to ask about it. He never did. But one day his wife got sick. It was determined that she would not recover. As they began to sort out her affairs, the husband took down the shoe box and took it to his wife. They agreed that it was time that

she should explain the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$25,000. He lovingly asked her about the contents. She responded by saying "Just before we got married, my grandmother told me that the secret of a happy marriage was never to argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll. The husband was moved to tears, as he looked at the two dolls lying in the box. Only twice in all those years had his darling wife been angry with him. He said, "But what about all this money? How did you manage to save all of this money?" "Oh" she answered, "that is the money I made from selling the dolls."

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE?

During a children's sermon one Sunday morning, I held up an ugly-looking summer shirt that I wore occasionally around the house. I explained to the children that someone said the shirt was ugly and should be thrown away.

"This really hurt me," I explained. "I'm having trouble forgiving the person who said those mean things. Do you think I should forgive that person?" I asked the children. Immediately, my six-year-old daughter, Alicia, raised her hand. "Yes, you should," she said without hesitation. "But why? The person hurt my feelings," I responded.

To which Alicia wisely answered, "Because you're married to her."

SOURCE: Glenn E. Schaeffer, Christian Reader ("Kids of the Kingdom" September/October 1997)