

HTPC Marriage Class- *Reforming Marriage*

Week 7: May 1, 2022

Chapters 5-6: “Keeping Short Accounts”; “Miscellaneous Temptations”

Chapter 5: “Keeping Short Accounts”

The Problem of Sin

1. “Marriage problems are overwhelmingly problems with sin.” Agree or disagree? What other ways are used at times to describe marriage problems?
2. Do you have a robust, biblical doctrine of sin? E.g., Do you have a functional, working understanding of Adam’s Fall, depravity (the imputation of Adam’s sin and the spiritual deadness in which we are all conceived as sinners), etc.? E.g., Do we sin because we are sinners or are we sinners because we sin? Why is this so important?
3. Similarly, why are the doctrines of justification and sanctification (definitive and progressive) so important for a healthy marriage? Please think prayerfully about these things.
4. Has God blessed you with a pattern in your home of “picking up the room” in an ongoing manner? Discuss the implications.
5. Discuss the matter of joyless hypocrisy in the church in these areas. And the fact of a relationship versus the quality of the relationship.

Putting Things Right

1. How should we confess and apologize? What is often missing even in the church in these regards?
2. Do you agree that there is no problem too great when there is genuine fellowship? Conversely, what do you think about the threat of even “small” issues when there is no fellowship? (Do you agree that there is no sin too big to destabilize a marriage when the Gospel is appropriated and that, conversely, there is no sin too small that it cannot wreck a marriage where the Gospel is not appropriated?)

House Rules

1. Never split up until things are resolved.
2. Never let anyone in your home...
3. Never go anywhere else...
4. Hand signal...
5. Never have sexual relationships...

Doing laundry in the privacy of the home. Men, how will you lead in these matters of the heart?

Chapter 6: “Miscellaneous Temptations”

1. With specificity, describe what this “nice-guy” syndrome looks like in your marriage, or in your parents’ marriage. How does it contrast with biblical *gentleness*?

2. With specificity, describe what the “harsh guy syndrome” looks like in your marriage, or in your parents’ marriage. How does it contrast with biblical *leadership*?
3. Husbands, name times when you have stood in the garden where God has placed you with biblical humility and biblical confidence and you saw good fruit as a result? (Again, using the agricultural metaphor, how does such a mindset differ with both “nice guy” inactivity and “harsh guy” rudeness? What do the two errors have in common? Hint: “S-E-L...”)
4. What would specific confession of sin in the area of abdication look like in your home? (“So long as the problem is attributed to nothing more than personality differences or sloughed off on different cultural backgrounds between husband and wife, the problem will remain... What is at stake is the recovery of godly leadership in the home.”)

Differences Between Men and Women (pp. 85-89)

Where do you see these differences in your observations of marriage? Where do you see exceptions to these differences? How should we work toward productive communication?

Abdication and Debt (pp. 89-91) or “Can’t Buy Me Love...”

1. Do you agree with Wilson’s observation that husbands often seek to “pay for” their guilt of abdication by indulging their wives financially? (I agree and think this is very perceptive.) How does this compound the presenting problem? (How might the “harsh guy” handle finances?)
2. Discuss the connection between leadership of one’s home and leadership in the church. What sorts of church officers will abdicating husbands make? And harsh husbands?

Pornography (pp. 91-92)

Generally speaking, what is a man looking for in sexual immorality and what is a woman looking for? (What do you think of Wilson’s example of an insecure daughter?)

Criticism (pp. 93-95)

“It is hard to fight with someone who is listening to you considerately...” Discuss.

Jealousy (pp. 95-98)

How might a husband apply Paul’s jealousy for the church (2 Corinthians 11:2) to that which he should foster for his wife? Discuss the bad example of the sinfully jealous husband Wilson mentions.

Summary: Where should all of these discussions lead us?