

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:25-30 & 6:4

Date: June 16, 2013 – Father's Day

Title: "Husbands, Marriage, and Family"

Focus: What man brings to marriage and the family (Marriage Series 3 of 3).

Intro:

1. Marriage rates in America are declining. In the 1960, 72 percent of people were married. Today that rate is barely 51 percent.
2. Many men are forgoing or delaying marriage. The average age for first marriages among men is 29. Instead they are choosing to cohabitate or be single while being sexually active.
3. What is the result of this? Currently \$112 billion dollars are spent annually to support households that have experienced divorce and/or unwed parenting.
4. According to a Washington Times article (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/feb/5/us-marriage-rate-continues-decline-men-tie-knot-la/?page=all>) this trend holds dire consequences for the American culture.
5. The practice of men putting their own desires first strikes at the heart of what men bring to marriage.

Body:

The Husband as Provider

Eph. 5:25-30; "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church...*"

God does not merely say husbands are to love their wives. He explains what this love is to look like.

Why would God need to explain what love means? Don't we inherently know? The answer is no, we don't.

When left undefined, *love* comes to have many variations of application. This is influenced by what a person is willing to give.

God tells husbands to love their wives:

Sacrificially (v. 25) - Giving of themselves for their wives.

Unselfishly (v. 28) - Giving of themselves to their wives.

To love in this manner exceeds words. It encompasses more than tokens of appreciation or working hard as a provider.

It necessitates the total surrender of one's self for and to the wife.

Loving your wife in this manner is about more than being a good provider. It is about promoting her growth in godliness.

Gentlemen, this love is not possible apart from God's grace.

The Father as Disciplinarian

Eph. 6:4; "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...*"

A second element in the home husbands are responsible for are their children. Usually this means we are the "enforcer."

However, fathers are more than disciplinarians. They are to be the agent for training and shaping their children in a relationship with God.

Fathers, need to show leadership by being an active participant in their children knowing God and walking in obedience with Him.

As with loving your wife, this too cannot be fulfilled apart from knowing God yourself.

Men, You Need an Active and Vital Relationship with God

You are accountable to God for your family

God makes it clear we are the leaders of our homes, materially as well as spiritually. This place has been left vacant for too long.

To do this, men need to attend to a personal and on-going relationship with God.

We must fulfill our obligation to love our wives as exemplified by Jesus.

We must embrace our role as chief teacher in our children's lives about God and the Kingdom.