

THE FAMILY: MARRIAGE

THE MYSTERY OF MARRIAGE

Lesson 3

INTRODUCTON

1. “Mystery” in the New Testament is not something that cannot be understood, but a purpose hidden in the mind of God and veiled until God reveals it through the Gospel.
2. One example is the “mystery” of God’s eternal purpose regarding the salvation of man.
 - a. God has chosen before the foundation of the world, according to His Will, and to His Glory, that those saved will be saved “in Christ” (Eph. 1:4-5)
 - (1). Purpose: holy people without blemish living before God in love.
 - (2). Foreordained: People adopted through Jesus Christ.
 - b. Salvation to the praise of God’s grace (Eph. 1:6-7)
 - (1). Freely bestowed in God’s beloved son
 - (2). Redemption through Jesus’ death (blood)
 - c. Mystery “made known” in the fullness of times (Eph. 1:8-10)
 - (1). God’s wisdom and prudence made known (I Cor. 2:6-8)
 - (2). In Christ, all things summed up. (Col. 1:25-27)
 - (3). Veiled though pointed to through the Old Testament writings (Rom. 16:25-27)
 - (4). Hearing the preaching (I Pet. 1: 10-12)
 - (5). Reading the writing- now understanding Paul’s understanding of the mystery of Christ (Eph. 3:3-6)
3. In the lesson we examine how marriage is connected to “the mystery”

I. THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE (Genesis 2:24, Matt. 19:5, Eph. 5:31)

- A. Man created first – woman created to be a “help” that is “suitable” for man (Gen. 2:18- 23)
 1. not found in animals
 2. not found in another man
 3. woman literally created out of man
- B. Establishing the foundation for the holy fulfillment of the sexual desires in future Generations.
 1. “one flesh” emphasis upon the sexual relationship – holy in marriage (cf. I Cor. 6:16)
 2. Creation of one’s new family – “leave father and mother.”

II. THE GREAT MYSTERY IS THE CHURCH (Eph. 5:32)

- A. The mystery is the church – not marriage
- B. Marriage instituted to mirror the church in her relationship with Christ

III. MARRIAGE MIRRORING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH (Eph. 5:22-30)

- A. Husbands Head – Christ is Head
- B. Wives subjection – Church in subjection

- C. Wives in subjection – honoring headship of husband as church honors headship of Christ
 - 1. honoring God’s eternal plan for headship (v.23, 33)
 - 2. “in everything” (v.24).
- D. Husbands loving wives – honoring Christ love for the church (v.25-27)
 - 1. Husband loving his wife is loving Himself – As Christ loves members of His body, the church (v. 28, 33)
 - 2. Husband nourishes and cherishes his wife – as Christ does so for his church (v. 29-30)
 - a. provides for well-being (nourishes, cf. Eph. 6:4)
 - b. provides tender warmth (cherishes cf. I Thess. 2:7)

IV. “HOW” WE CAN MIRROR THIS MYSTERY IN OUR MARRAGE.

- A. Husband takes the lead in establishing your own personal relationship with God through Christ
 - 1. You cannot offer spiritual leadership without first possessing it (cf. Deut. 6:6-7)
 - 2. How do you establish “hope in God” in your wife when you do not possess it (cf. I Pet. 3:5)
- B. Husband takes the lead in planning ahead for spiritual growth for wife – where do we want to be spiritually in a year?
- C. Husband takes the initiative and leads in Scripture reading, prayer and worship – “Adam (the man) where are you? (cf. Gen. 3:9, I Peter 3:7)
- D. Husband takes the lead with Reconciliation – Jesus Did (cf. Eph. 5:25, Rom. 5:8)
- E. Wife honors husband’s headship because she honors the Lord (cf. v.22)
- F. Wife’s disposition and inclination is to submit to husband’s directives – not directives to sin (cf. vs. 22)
 - 1. Can refuse humbly, still respecting husband’s role as head.
 - 2. Can answer with meekness out of reverence for the Lord (cf. I Pet. 3:15)
- G. Experiencing mutual joy in each other – church in her Husband and Christ in His bride (Eph. 5:23, 27, 28-30)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. How meaningful is the description “*a marriage made in heaven*” to Christians!
- 2. How good a “*parable*” are you offering in your marriage to the world regarding God’s eternal purpose in connection with Christ and His church?