

MARRIAGE IS FOR LOVE

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 5:22-33**. By Roy H. Enoch (03-14-1993).
- B. We want to study a series of lessons about marriage.
- C. We introduce the subject by looking at some of the things Paul says about marriage in Eph. 5:22-33.
- D. God introduces the subject of marriage in Gen. 2:18-24.
 - 1. God says that man was designed to be the happiest w/a mate.
 - 2. It is a fleshly union (become one flesh) as well as social and spiritual.
 - 3. Man is to leave father and mother and be joined to his wife.
 - 4. No man is to separate the union that God makes. Mt. 19:6.
- E. As we focus on Eph. 5:22-33 we want to notice that love is the main motive and basis for the kind of marriage that God wants.

I. LOVE IS THE KEY TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE (Brecheen and Faulkner).

- A. The Greeks had four words for love.
 - 1. **Storge** family love; the love of parents for children, children for parents, brothers and sisters for each other.
 - 2. **Eros** sensual love. It means a love that is egocentric, "wanting to have," seeking union with the object of its desire. (It is self gratifying rather than serving.)
 - 3. **Philia** friendship; love given to all kinds of human beings, shown in such words as philadelphia, brotherly love. (focus on affection and feeling.)
 - 4. **Agape** a spontaneous impulse of the heart to desire that which is good for the one loved, and it will be at my cost. There are no prerequisites, no conditions, no requirements.
- B. Let us see what these words mean in marriage.
 - 1. **Storge** "My family is important to me, I want my family to be important to you. I recognize that your family is important to you. Your family will also be important to me.
 - 2. **Eros** "I am physically attracted to you."
 - 3. **Philia** "I like you. I enjoy being with you, going places with you, experiencing things with you."
 - 4. **Agape** "I will be good to you. I will treat you with patience and kindness, with courtesy, consideration and deep concern. That is an unconditional promise. I will always, under all circumstances, treat you that way."
- C. The characteristics of Agape' love are described in 1Cor. 13:4-8.
 - 1. This is the kind of love that is commanded in marriage.
 - 2. The husband and wife are never commanded to have family affection, affection, are to physically desire, or to like each other.
 - 3. They are commanded to have agape' love for each other.
 - 4. They are commanded to treat each other right and to do what is best for the other, and not to please themselves.

II. PAUL APPLIES THE KIND OF LOVE TO MARRIAGE AND TO THE CHURCH (Eph. 5:22-33).

- A. Agape is not a feeling or emotion but a way of behaving, the way we treat people.
 - 1. Jesus uses this word in Mt. 5:44,45
 - a. Loving our enemies (agape') is not how we feel about them but how we treat them.
 - b. God's love for us (agape') is what He does for us. John 3:16
 - 2. Husbands are to love their wives AS X loved the church.
 - a. His love for the church is described as "He gave Himself for it."
 - b. The husband is to "give himself" for his wife.
 - c. "Do as she needs" rather than "do as he wants."

3. The wife's love for her husband is "submit to your own husbands, as unto the Lord."
She is also commanded to "respect her husband."
 4. The "love" commanded of husbands and wives is behavior and not feeling or affection, though that also should be present.
- B. The "love" commanded means that neither is able to do as they please.
1. See 1Cor. 7:2,3.
 2. This "love" requires that each seek the other's needs.
 3. They are to love their wives "as their own bodies."
 - a. As Xians are members of the body of X, the Church, the husband is to treat the wife as his own body and cherish and protect her.
 - b. He cannot put his own welfare before hers.
 - c. He cannot do as he pleases, but as she needs.
 4. The husband's love for his wife is shown in "leaving father and mother and being joined to his wife."
 - a. One problem is when a husband feels more obligation to his parents than to his wife.
 - b. Likewise a wife creates a problem if she puts her parents before her family.
- C. The husband is the "head" of the wife, not as a dictator, but as the one who has responsibility for her welfare.
1. He never has the right to act selfish or do as he pleases.
 2. His position of responsibility does not make him better than his wife (thinking it does shows his inferiority.)
 3. He is responsible for the spiritual training and leadership of the family.
 4. He is responsible for providing for the family.
 5. He is responsible for protecting the family.
- D. When we understand the real meaning of Agape' love we see obligation rather than gratification.
1. This is true in the home as in the church.
 - a. Some think the worship of God should please or entertain them.
 - b. Some husbands and wives think that marriage is for their own enjoyment rather than obligation to another.
 2. True happiness comes from serving others.
 - a. Serving God, serving the brethren, serving our fellows man, and serving our family.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Let us learn to love by serving.
- B. We need to look to the needs of others rather than our desires.
- C. Most of all we need to look to the will of God for our greatest happiness.