

“The Hierarchy of Marriage”

(Part 1)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
Chapel Pointe
January 16, 2011

I. Introduction

A. The erosion of the traditional family

1. Memphis High School
 - a. 90 girls are pregnant
 - b. 20 percent of the girls
2. Statistics are frightening
 - a. 41% of babies born to single mothers
 - b. NY City....80% of babies
3. The problem with the dads...missing in action
 - a. Only 10% stick around after the first year
4. Commentary by William Raspberry (GR Press, July 31, 2005, p.G2)
 - a. More than two-thirds of black babies are born out of wedlock
 - b. Father absence is the bane of the black community, predisposing its children to school failure, criminal behavior and economic hardship...and to an intergenerational repetition of the grim cycle. The culprit...is the decline of marriage.
 - c. Fatherless boys (as a general rule) become ineligible as husbands, though no less likely to become fathers...and their children fall into the patterns that render them ineligible as husbands
 - d. The absence of fathers means, as well, that girls lack both a pattern against which to measure the boys who pursue them and an example of sacrificial love between a man and a woman. It isn't the incompetence of mothers

that is at issue, but the absence of half of the adult support needed for families to be most effective.

5. Alvin Toffler's predictions 40 years ago in *Future Shock*

a. "As conventional marriage proves itself less and less capable of delivering on its promise of life-long love, we can anticipate open public acceptance of temporary marriages."

b. An "apprentice" period

c. The five year marriage contract

1. Renewal

—or—

2. Cancellation

d. Government trained and financed substitute parents for kids of dissolved marriages

6. Dr. M.R. DeHaan

"The nearest thing to heaven on this earth is the Christian family and the home where husband and wife, and parents and children, live in love and peace together for the Lord and for each other.

The nearest thing to hell on earth is an ungodly home, broken by sin and iniquity, where parents bicker, quarrel and separate, and children are abandoned to the devil and all the forces of wickedness."

B. Cracking the Marriage Code

January 16 ***"The Hierarchy of Marriage"***

January 23 ***"What Every Man Needs"***

*trying to turn him into another one of your girlfriends

January 30 ***"Understanding Women"***

*the list

February 6 ***"The Dreaded Affair"***

*The most common causes of affairs

*The hidden dangers of “affairs of the mind”

C. What triggered this in me?

1. Recent deluge of marriage counseling
 - a. Messages on my cell phone
 - b. “I screwed up big time”
2. The impact of one verse
 - a. I Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (NKJV)

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (NIV)

3. Inspired me to do this series
 - a. That statement, “dwell with them with understanding”
 - b. Really shook me up
4. Also in that verse, “honor your wife...or else”
 - a. That your prayers may not be hindered”
 - b. Discussion with Ray
- 5 Let me do some pulpit counseling
 - a. A four week marriage seminar...free
 - b. Understanding women...understanding men

D. The verse begins with “*Likewise husbands*”

1. I couldn’t skip those opening words

- a. *“in the same way”*
- 2. “Like” what?
 - a Same way as what?
- 3. Just like what was previously mentioned
 - a. Like what Peter’s just talked about in the previous 2 chapters
- 4. The theme is godly living through “submission”
 - a. Not a popular word these days
- 5. Yet so important to understanding marriage...and life
- 6. Let me clear up some confusion

II. Truths about submission

1. Submission is part of God’s hierarchy of life

- a. I Peter 2:13-21

(13) Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, (14) or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (15) For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. (16) Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (17) Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

(21) To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

- b. Definition of “submit”
 - 1. ***“To yield or surrender to the will or authority of another”***
- c. Areas of submission
 - 1. The laws of man (I Peter 2:13)
 - 2. The authority of government (I Peter 2:14-17)
 - 3. Your employer (I Peter 2:18)

4. The elderly in the church (I Peter 5:5)
5. The pastors and elders of the church (I Cor. 16:16)
6. God (James 4:7)

2. Submission is designed to produce efficiency...not inequality

1. “Submit” is a military term
 - a. “hupo ta’sso”
 - * Hupo – under
 - * Tasso – to line up
 - * To rank under
 - b. Indicates a role...not inequality
 - c. Submit to their area of responsibility
2. Visiting the Winston S. Churchill with Josh
 - a. Rank and responsibility
3. Things don’t work well without it
 - a. Military
 - b. Nation
 - c. Church
 - d. School
 - e. University of Michigan football.....coach
 - f. Home – marriage
4. Even seen in the Trinity
 - a. Jesus – “I and my Father are one”
 - b. Yet, “Not my will but yours be done”

3. The goal of submission is to win people to Christ

1. The theme of I Peter 2 & 3
2. So the world doesn't view us as rebels
3. That they may be won by your godly example
 - a. The evidence of submission is godly behavior

4. Christ set the supreme example of submission

- a. I Peter 2:17 & 21

(17) Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

(21) To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

5. Like it or not, we are to submit to each other

- a. Ephesians 5:21

(21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- b. Placing others first
- c. Not demanding our rights
- d. The impact on the unsaved
- e. In all areas of our lives

6. We are to submit out of reverence to Christ

(21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (22) "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:21-22)

- a. "as to the Lord"
- b. The headship of Christ
- c. How Jesus submitted to his father

7. Wives are to be submissive to their husbands

- a. Now we're getting to it
- b. I Peter 3:1

(1) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands

- c. Ephesians 5: 22

(22) "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord

- d. Submit to his responsibility to be the head of the home
- e. Does not include every decision

8. Don't mistake submission for inequality

- a. I Peter 3:7

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (NKJV)

- b. "as being heirs together"
- c. Wives submit to the authority granted their husband...husbands submit to the needs of their wives
 - 1. Like Christ...willing to die for her
 - 2. Husbands will have to give an account
 - 3. So will the pastors

9. Wives are to be submissive to their own husbands

(21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (22) "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:21-22)

- a. Submission should be to your own husband
- b. Eph. 5:22—
 - 1. "your own husband" is both implied and stated

2. How many times have you seen it—runs off with her boss
 3. The problem begins when she submits to somebody else's husband for nine hours per day
- c. The danger of office relationships
1. Will discuss it in a couple of weeks

10. Submission is God's blueprint for reaching unsaved husbands

(1) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (2) when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

(I Peter 3)

1. Reaching an unsaved husband
 - a. Quit preaching at them with words
2. Reaching a disobedient (yet saved) husband
 - a. The spiritually immature husband
 - b. Patience, prayer and godly living

11. Second guessing God will result in lost blessing

- a. God's clear plan to reach unsaved husbands
 1. I Peter 3:1-2

(1) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (2) when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

2. Don't try to second guess God's plan
- b. Submission is God's plan even if your husband is saved
- c. That's always been God's plan
 1. Gen 3:16

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

- 2. Based on creation
- 3. Based on the Fall
- d. It's a dangerous thing to ignore God's directions
 - 1. Don't expect to have total happiness while in open rebellion to God's standards
 - 2. Couples living together
 - a. Don't expect God's blessing
- e. Why did God mandate it this way?
 - 1. The weaker vessel of I Peter 3:7
 - a. Physically weaker
 - b. More vulnerable in certain ways...less in others
 - 2. In the Garden of Eden
 - 3. The women and demons of Genesis 6
 - 4. Heads covered in I Corinthians 11

(9) Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. (10) For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head.

(11) In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. (12) For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from Christ.

- f. God knew what He was doing!
 - 1. Physical differences
 - a. Protection
 - b. Provision
 - 2. Emotional differences
 - a. Intuition and insight

3. Spiritual authority

- a. Woman was made for man, not the man for the woman

12. Leadership abhors a vacuum

- a. Nature abhors a vacuum

1. Air rushes to fill it
2. Vacuums in organizational leadership
 - a. Somebody will step up
3. Vacuums in church leadership
 - a. The role of the pastor
 - b. When pastors fail to lead

- b. Leadership vacuums in the home

1. When husbands fail to lead
2. Fail to set the spiritual temperature

13. We need more thermostats ...and fewer thermometers

- a. Thermometers record the temperature...thermostats set the temperature
- b. Husbands must set the spiritual temperature in the home
- c. Why so many women takeover the spiritual leadership
 1. Leadership abhors a vacuum
 2. Men...time to step up
- d. Ways guys mess up
 1. Apathy
 2. Authority without love
 3. Unreasonable expectations

4. A failure to communicate
5. By inconsistent leadership
6. A lack of understanding of women
 - a. In two weeks

14. God designed a crucial role for the older women

- a. The mature women of the church
- b. They are to teach the younger women by word and example
 1. Titus 2:3-5

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

- c. Not my responsibility
- d. The importance of an intergenerational church
- e. Your job description is to train them how to—
 1. Love their husbands
 2. Love their children
 3. Be self-controlled
 4. Be pure
 5. Be busy at home
 6. Be kind
 7. Be subject to their husbands
- f. The high cost of failure
 1. ***“so that no one will malign the word of God”*** (Titus 2:4-5)

a. “to speak evil of; to slander; to defame”

2. To ignore God’s commands is to slander his word

15. Submission involves a checklist of behavior

(1) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (2) when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. (3) Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. (4) Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. (5) For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, (6) like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

a. Behavioral checklist

1. Submissive
2. Purity
3. Reverence...Respect
4. Gentle and quiet spirit
5. Obedient
6. Do what is right
7. Fearless....trust God’s plan

b. One more thing...

16. It won’t work without an attitude of submission

a. From the inside out

b. Attitude, by Charles Swindoll

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other

people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you. We are in charge of our attitudes.”