



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, February 26, 2012
Dr. Mike Moses - Huntersville

Series: Live Well: God's Wisdom for Everyday Living

Sermon: Marriage

Passage: Various verses from Proverbs

Note to Group Leaders:

Pastor Mike Moses will be preaching at Huntersville and then Davidson on Marriage. Pastor Mitch White will be preaching in Davidson and then Huntersville on Friendship. These questions are for Pastor Mike's sermon on Marriage. See the separate email for Pastor Mitch's questions on Friendship. Both sermons come from various passages in the book of Proverbs.

Introduce it:

"Nearly 70% of married men and 60% of married women have affairs" "less than half of couples who marry will stay married for 15 years" "every 10 to 13 seconds another couple divorces" - Dr. Holly Hein, "Sexual Detours"

Why do you think half of all American marriages end in divorce?

Revisit it and Use It:

For this sermon, these 2 sections are combined. Below are the passages/comments and questions that Pastor Mike used during his sermon. As a group leader, simply choose the ones that best apply to your group to discuss.

Mike asked this question, "What would you do if the same statistic existed in another area of life - say - "50% of children will be mauled by bears on the way to the bus stop tomorrow"" - if you have a child, what would your response be to that statistic?

What are ways married and pre-married people could take current divorce statistics more seriously, to fore-arm their marriage against destruction? Why do you think most couples don't wisely fore-arm themselves and their marriages, considering how high the stakes are?

Mike said: "Human marriage is meant to picture the ultimate marriage between Christ and the church." (Read this in Ephesians 5:31-33)

Mike made these two generalizations based on gender (generalizations are helpful but not always true in every case): "Men in general will fail to love" and "Women in general will fail to rest in love."

In what ways do you agree and disagree?

Men's failure to love.

Proverbs 20:6 "Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?"

That shows itself in Proverbs in three primary ways.

1. Men will love the wrong thing:

2. Men will withdraw from love:

Read Proverbs 27:8; What are the things that tend to draw a man from home in your observations?

3. Men will lash out in anger.

Read Proverbs 12:18; How does a sinful husband use words? What are the words of a man supposed to do?

Women's failure to rest in love:

What does it mean for a woman to fail to rest in love?

Read Proverbs 30:21-23 21

In what ways do you agree or disagree with the statement that women struggle with being loved?

Read the following Proverbs:

"Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife..." (Prov 21:9)

"Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife." (Prov 21:19)

"Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife." (Proverbs 25:24)

"A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day." (Proverbs 27:15)

What is the difference between being resentful and quarrelsome as a wife, and being a direct communicator about unpleasant realities in the marriage? Has anyone ever met a wife who WANTED to be a bitter, resentful nag to her husband? How does a wife avoid this?

Mike applied Proverbs 5:15-19 to both genders at this point. Read this passage.

Read this quote from the sermon: (quote from a commentary) "To God, no woman or man is worthless or ordinary. The lover sees through the beloved's flaws to the image of God. The lover is not blind to pigeon toes and bad manners but, caught up in love, discerns the true creature, the one who, when perfected in heaven, "you would be strongly tempted to worship." It is this truest and deepest self of the person-the person as created and potentially redeemed by God. Love, true love comes when we value the other person, see the best in them. When we rejoice in the other person and we keep rejoicing in her, in him as the years go by."

Question: How do you rejoice in the person that God has given you? How do you rejoice in them verbally to them, and internally to yourself? How is this God's prescription for both men and women's failure to love well, even in the face of your spouse's sin, imperfections, and lack of trying as hard as you to grow the marriage?

Here are ways Mike mentioned to do this:

"Recalling this person God has given you, recalling the things that made you first love and desire this person, bringing to mind the things that make her, make him someone who today brings a smile to your lips. This kind of internal rehearsal comes out in your day to day living, in your romancing.

Rejoice out loud. Rejoice so others hear that rejoicing. Value the other person, see the best in them, rejoice over the other person, keep alive the joyful, playful, intertwining and be captivated by his/her love. Don't ignore the small things done, mark them down, remember them, celebrate them. Don't ignore the things that have been done for years now, that you've simply come to expect, don't ignore the new things, the new efforts, have your radar up even for those things that don't speak your language of love. Don't ignore the big things, the huge surprises, replay them over and over again in your mind.

Which of these do you do well? Which of these would you like to grow?

Remember It: Memorize Ephesians 5:21; "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

TEACH THESE PROVERBS TO YOUR CHILDREN!!! As parents, we owe it to our children to help them learn what it means to have a healthy marriage. The best way is to show it, the second best way is to teach it from the Scriptures.