**Adult Sunday School**October 28, 2007

**The way of a man with a maid**

Prov. 30:19—*The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and* ***the way of a man with a maid****.*

1Thess. 4:3*—For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

*4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

*5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:*

*6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.*

*7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

1. SELECT GODLY Friends

Godly qualities of life are to be sought for in friends, not based upon outward beauty and interesting personality, but excellent character which comes from fearing the Lord.

Pr 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

“*a woman that* ***feareth the LORD,*** *she* ***shall be praised***”

Charm is seductive; don’t be charmed by deceitful favor.

subjective (deceitful kindness-favor) or objective (vain beauty)

Pr 12:4 ¶ A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

1. The testimony of others regarding the godly character of the one you are to be friends with must be taken into account.

What is her reputation among those whom she lives with and know her best?

Long before Boaz considered Ruth as a prospect for a wife, he had been observing her and knew the testimony she had in the community. He said to her,

Ru 2:11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

Ru 3:11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

This virtuous character is precisely what Abraham’s servant was seeking above all else as he prayed.

Ge 24:12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

He sought for a believing woman who possessed certain qualities.

The “test” he had requested of God would demonstrate a remarkable character within the girl. For her to fulfill the requirements of that prayer she must be selfless, concerned for others, and hospitable. She must be strong, willing, and diligent. The good of others must fill her mind. Lowly domestic work

must not offend her. Kindness, compassion and love even for the stranger.

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1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Careful consideration is to be taken before any decisions are made.

Pr 19:2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

Taking steps without knowing is a sin.

A man’s own foolish choice ruins his life, and his heart rages against the Lord.

Pr 19:14*—House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

The parents’ blessing is to be had in all decisions.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Pr 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Pr 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Pr 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Like attracts like. If you are compromising and worldly, you will attract and associate with those type of people. If you want a godly partner, you must be godly yourself.

Be self sacrificial in gentleness and understanding, have these qualities developed in your life now.

“She continued praying before the Lord” [I Sam.1:12].

Prayer is the atmosphere she breathes [I Sam.2:1-10; Lk.1:46-55; 2:37].

She was molded by the hand of God to be a helper for the man. Woman was thus created to assist the man as his companion. Her God-given purpose was to help him to fulfill what the Lord had given him to do.

[1] God is leading. This is error indeed. God only leads in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake

[Ps.23:3]. He will never lead anyone into an unholy union of believer and unbeliever. He rather forbids this

altogether.

[2] We are in love. That is simply not true. You may be romantically involved and emotionally aroused,

but you do not love one another. “This is love that we walk according to His commandments” [2 Jn.6]. True love

requires obedience to the Word of God. It is disobedience to seek to marry an unbeliever and therefore cannot

be genuine love.

Such romantic “love” is nothing more than sentiment, emotional attachment, or actual lust itself.

Samson saw a good looking woman from among the ungodly Philistines and demanded that his parents obtain

her for his wife because “she looks good to me” [Jud.14:3]. The Scriptures tell us that later he “loved a woman in

the valley of Sorek” [Jud.16:4]; the infamous and ungodly Delilah who became the snare to his soul. None of

these attractions to Samson’s heart was true love; Philistines were the enemies of the Lord that were doomed for

destruction under the wrath of God.

Again, listen to Amnon who professed, “I am in love with Tamar” [2 Sam.13:4]; but it was absolutely

nothing more than burning lust. After using and defiling her body in illicit sexual sin, he cast her out as despised

and unwanted property [2 Sam.13:15-17].

The unbeliever will not then improve towards godliness, it is you who will decline even further from it.

Do not deceive yourselves: “It is a snare for a man to say rashly, ‘It is holy!’ and after the vows to make

inquiry” [Prov.20:25]. Beloved, do not rush into an unholy union that cannot have the blessing of God upon it.

“It is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he who hastens with his feet sins” [Prov.19:2].

May we contemplate and enter into this life long covenant of marriage with soberness and godly sincerity.

WHEN ARE PEOPLE MARRIED?

Two things make a marriage according to the Word of God:

[1]

A culturally recognized ceremony which tells everyone

that this man and woman are now husband and wife.

[2]

The sexual union of the husband and wife after the ceremony.

[Gen.2:22-24].

[Gen.24:3,4].

[Gen.24:51].

[Gen.24:57,58].

[Gen.24:67].

[Ruth 4:9-11, 13].

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