

Applied Christianity

Christianity at Home

Ephesians 5:25-27

Introduction:

1. Have you ever wondered why the Bible has relatively little to say about such things as marriage and parenting?
2. The answer to this helps us to understand something very important about how the Bible teaches its most important truths.

I. The "Depend" Principle (Matt. 22:40; cf. Matt. 7:12 NASB).

- A. Personal conduct, in all its many aspects, relates to but a few principles.
- B. Loving neighbor as we love self, and doing to others as we would have them do to us, is to be applied to all interpersonal relationships.
- C. In marriage and family, these principles are at the heart of relationships.

II. Other Passages That Draw From These Foundation Scriptures.

- A. Romans 15:1-3.
- B. I Corinthians 9:22; 10:24, 33.
- C. Philippians 2:5-8.
- D. I Peter 2:18-24.
- E. Ephesians 5:22, 25, 28, 33.

III. Questions.

- A. Why do you suppose God instructs us about interpersonal relationships in the way that He does?
- B. What accounts for why God's simple instructions are not commonly followed?
- C. How does Acts 20:35b contribute to our discussion?

Concluding Observations:

1. Success in relationships is usually more in reach than people are willing to allow (Rom. 12:18).
2. The Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-37) will determine the success of the Second Commandment.
3. Pride will lead to failure.
4. A common interest must come to replace a singular interest.
5. Marriage is a partnership of three (Prov. 2:17; Mal. 2:14, 16; Matt. 19:6).
6. Mutual submission is necessary for the success of any relationship (Eph. 5:21).
7. Marriage is a partnership, with each partner adding special gifts to make life better for both (Gen. 2:18-23).
8. Children are due, in principle, the same love, respect, and care that applies to a husband and wife.