

Honour Marriage

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Marriage is the most difficult lesson to learn in life. A lot of young people look forward to marriage, but they do not really understand the meaning and objective of marriage. Even though they see many unhappy marriages in reality, they are still very brave to dare to get married.

The marriage of celebrities - Tse Ting Fang (Nicholas) and Cheung Pak Chi (Cecilia) is a typical example. They were a perfect match in people's eyes. They were a deeply-in-love couple, a heaven-made match. Why did such a perfect marriage end up in divorce? They did not only simply divorce, they even ended up as enemies, being extremely antagonistic to each other. I don't really understand whether they were lovers or enemies.

Therefore, I said marriage is a very difficult lesson to learn. Let us think, what is it that holds a marriage relationship? Is it money? They had plenty. I am a poor man. A million to me is already an astronomical number. They had hundreds of millions. We often think that money can keep a relationship. Obviously, even if they had a lot more money, their relationship could still not be maintained.

Some women thought that if they had children, they could keep their husbands' hearts. Cecilia Cheung had two sons but she still could not keep the heart of Nicholas Tse. Some women worry that if they are not pretty, their husband would look for someone else. Men may also

worry that if they are not handsome, their wives may sleep with other men. Nicholas Tse and Cecilia Cheung were publicly recognised as a brilliant young man and a beautiful woman. Nevertheless, their relationship could still not be maintained.

Ultimately what is it that holds a marriage relationship? If you still want to pursue a marriage relationship, you must give this question a good thought. I said this is the most difficult lesson to learn in life. It is not as simple as what people in the world think. They just get married whenever they want to. A lot of people simply do not understand what the meaning of marriage is, what the objective of marriage is, how the relationship of marriage is being maintained.

The Bible gives us a lot of advice about marriage. Hebrews 13:4 gives some very important advice:

Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

“Marriage is honourable among all.” The word that I want to give to the new couple today is “honourable”. The theme for this wedding is “Suitable for the Lord’s use”. Personally I do not like to talk about great ideals. I like to start with the smallest things. For instance we often wish the new couples to remain happily married to a ripe old age, to have a long-lasting relationship. But if they do not know how to honour each other, this is a futile, impossible wish. “Suitable for the Lord’s use” is a beautiful and great ideal. If you truly wish that your marriage would be suitable for the Lord’s use, to be a blessing to the people around you, then you must start from small things. You must know how to honour marriage.

Why do we need to honour marriage? The book of Hebrews gives

us a warning: God will judge. Marriage is a very special gift that God gives mankind. It lets people enjoy this exceptionally special relationship between opposite sexes. While you are enjoying this gift, at the same time, you must bear the corresponding responsibility. God demands us to be a responsible person. Do not take marriage and divorce lightly. You will regret one day. How you treat marriage and how you treat your spouse, you will have to give account to God.

If you don't let God manage your life, I am certain that you cannot manage your marriage well; you cannot manage your family well; because your marriage cannot be separated from God. People without God in their hearts do not care about their conscience. They also do not know how to honour people, or marriage. Therefore, it is also not possible for them to have lasting marriage.

What are we supposed to do in order to honour marriage? A couple must learn how to honour each other. Honour each other is not applied to the relationship of husband and wife only. It is also indispensable in other human relationships. Once mutual honour is missing, we would then hurt each other. Therefore, this applies not only to the relationship of husband and wife. You must understand, if you wish that a marriage relationship can be long-lasting, you must know how to honour each other. You must also start from now.

If you want to divorce, I can tell you a secret recipe. You only need to say some statements more often. I can guarantee that they would shorten your path to divorce. What statements to say more often? Say the following words more often: "Are you mentally retarded? Are you brainless?" If this does not work, then say: "How come your family is so uncivilised!" If this still does not work, then say: "Do you want to divorce? Let us get divorced!" If you are a wife, you can say to your husband: "You should learn from the husband of so and so."

The husband can say to his wife: “You are hopeless. Have a look at the wife of so and so. She is much better than you.” Say more of these words, particularly in front of other people. This way, the divorce process would certainly be sped up.

What am I trying to say? Not honouring each other is destroying our own marriages. Today I only talk about one point, that is, learn to honour the other party in speech. Perhaps you think that this principle is too simple. We often want to learn great principles. In fact speech is very powerful. It can build up relationships. It can also destroy relationships. In daily life, the issues with human relationships are often caused by some careless, impolite words. Needless to say, we cannot be careless with words.

In order to honour marriage, the first step is to learn how to honour each other in speech. Occasional mistakes are unavoidable between a couple, because your spouse is not perfect. If your spouse makes a mistake, with what attitude would you treat him? Would you censure, criticize him? “How come you are so stupid? Do you know how many times you have made such mistake?” Or else, you would say some kind words to accept him? Of course, the one who made the mistake should not shun his responsibility. He should be brave to admit his mistake, to correct his mistake.



Speech is very important. It can improve relationships. For example, in our daily life, you can say appreciative words to your spouse more often. My teacher is my example. He reminded us not to take your wife’s service for granted as time goes by. Every time his wife gives him a glass of water, he would say thanks. I always remember my teacher’s example. I treat my wife in the same way.

People are always like this. After getting married for a long time, all the things that our spouses do for us will be taken for granted. Your spouse brings you a glass of water. You take it for granted. You would not say thank you. As time goes by, you even forget the name of your spouse: “Ah, give me a glass of water!” This is lack of honour. Your spouse has a name. Nevertheless, you can add the word “dear”. If you add the word “dear”, your relationship would be different. If you omit this word, perhaps it is unimportant. But if you omit the name, the consequence would be serious. Such is the importance of speech. Do not think that it is a minor matter. In fact, a lot of big problems are triggered by minor things.

Therefore, to put it simply, I want to encourage the new couple. I also want to encourage everybody here: Marriage is a gift given to you by God. Your spouse is your lifetime partner given to you by God. You must honour, treasure your partner, not only in deeds, but also in speeches.

Talking about mutual honour, there is a point that we must pay attention to. This is also the point we often overlook: before honouring each other, we must honour ourselves first. A real example: Once a husband had sexual relationship with another woman, his wife discovered the affair and demanded to divorce with him. The husband expressed his grievances to me. He truly loved his wife. He had never thought of doing something not loyal to his wife. He kept on telling me how he loved his wife and children. I also believed that he really loved his wife very much. He did not understand why he loved his wife so much and yet he would do something that hurt her. Actually, the fundamental reason was because he did not know how to honour himself.

Today’s society teaches us not to honour ourselves. We can take

marriage lightly. Starting from university, you change a girl or boy friend every year, so that you would have enough experience to find a suitable candidate for marriage. This is the concept that is instilled into us by today's society. The teaching behind this is that you do not need to honour yourself in the relationship of two sexes. Many people look at the relationship of opposite sex like this.

Let me tell you, if you do not know how to honour yourself, no matter how much you love your spouse in your heart, eventually you will do something that insults her. This is inevitable. You must know how to honour yourself. You must preserve your purity and self-respect. God granted you to your spouse as her gift. He also granted your spouse to you as your gift. Not only does she have to treasure herself. You have to treasure yourself too. Only when you do this, would your marriage relationship be able to last long.

Recently I read a piece of news. It was about a Chinese lady professor working in Fukuoka, Japan. One day she was driving on a road. The speed limit was 60 kmph. Her speed was 88 kmph, a lot more than the speed limit. Very quickly she was noticed by the traffic police and was stopped at last. This lady professor should be a very learned person. But as soon as she got out of her car, she argued with the police. She claimed that she did not speed very confidently. The police had no choice but to show her the speed report recorded by the computer. She did not bother to take a look at it. She took the report, scrunched it and threw it onto the ground. Eventually, she was not only accused of speeding, but also accused of hindering the police during duty execution.

The behaviour of this lady professor is a typical example of most Chinese. We do not know how to respect ourselves. For example, drunk driving, as soon as an accident takes place, people start to deny,

quarrel and fight. We thought denial is clever. But nowadays technology is advanced. People can use mobile phones or video cameras to snap up all the ugly images and post them on the internet. Once they are spread out on the internet, your regrets would be futile, because they would affect your beloved husband, wife, children and parents. To sum up, not honouring yourself is the same as insulting yourself, insulting your family members, especially the most intimate one – your spouse. You should not only honour your spouse, but also preserve your purity and self-respect too.

This is the reason why the Book of Hebrews warns us to honour marriage, because God will judge. God will look into our marriage relationship, to find out how we treat our marriages in our lives. Therefore, you must fear God in your heart. Let God rule your life. This way, when you two come close together, God would bless your marriage.

What is the objective of marriage? Marriage relationship is not to enjoy a world with only the two of you. Actually two people facing each other from morning till night is very painful. Try to be with someone for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 30 days a month, 365 days a year. Eat together, sleep together. This kind of couple world can become a hell on earth. This is also the reason why a married person would choose to divorce eventually.



The Bible describes a harmonious relationship as a garden. Why? Why do people like to visit a garden? It is because there are trees, flowers and grass, lakes and streams, birds singing, flower fragrances, a nice place where people feel relaxed and joyful. Many people go to parks because they want to relax and rest. A harmonious marriage

relationship is like a delightful garden. Whenever people get in touch with you, they would be attracted. They want to be with you together, because they can feel that your relationship has something very special.

I and my wife came across a lady. She was from the north. She came to the south to work. She was acquainted with us in the church. I was invited to give a sermon in her church previously. After that sermon, she tried very hard to look for us. She wanted to know where we lived. Afterwards, she initiated to contact us. She wanted to visit us. Of course, since she wanted to visit us, there was no reason for us to reject her. Subsequently, her visits were getting more and more frequent. She always wanted to find an opportunity to talk to us.

Why did this woman leave her hometown to work far away? It was because she felt that her marriage was unhappy. It was not that her husband did not love her. It was because her husband's family was unkind to her. She felt that her husband was not capable to protect her. As time went by, her heart developed grudge and discontent. Later she decided to leave her husband and child to work away from hometown.

After she left home, she felt lonely. Therefore, she acquainted herself with some married men. She went to bed with different men. She not only cheated her own spouse, but also ruined other people's families.

After listening to the Gospel, her heart began to be touched. She then wanted to find us to confess to us. We also encouraged her to repent as soon as possible, trust in God, and not to indulge in her sin. At last, she decided to separate with her boyfriend, resign from her work, to return home to be together with her husband. Later on, her relationship with her husband and family gradually improved.

What am I trying to say? What is the objective of marriage? A truly meaningful marriage relationship can certainly bless the people around you. Those people who get in touch of you are like finding an oasis in a desert. They are eager to acquaint and know you. They would initiate to contact you, want to visit you, to open their heart to talk to you, and to share with you their burden in heart.

Many people have a lot of burden in heart, but they still have to smile at other people. They are not willing to share with other people, because they



do not want others to know their private matters. They need help. Only God can help them, but God wants to use Christians to help them. You are God's channels, to be used by God to bless others. If you know how to honour marriage, God certainly would use you. Your relationship is like the oasis in a desert, the garden with fragrance, able to attract the people around you to come to know you. Through you, they can get help, direction, and be revitalized. I wish that God would use you to bless many people, to lead them to know God.

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