

The Bottom Line: Your Family

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I. Introduction.

A. The American family is in trouble.

B. Marriage originated in the mind of God, God has a plan for it, our nation is in trouble as far as the family is concerned, God has a plan for your marriage, there is a connection between your relationship with Christ and your effectiveness for ministry and you must be willing to follow God's plan for your marriage.

C. There are certain things God wants for marriage.

II. Union and unity. (Genesis 2:24)

A. There are problems that make leaving and cleaving difficult.

B. Conflict comes from pride. (Proverbs 13:10)

C. Responses to conflict.

1. Withdrawal.

2. Attack.

3. Put up a smokescreen.

4. Refusal to lose.

D. Proper responses to conflict.

1. Have a godly time-table for settling a conflict. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

2. The ball is always in your court. (Matthew 25; 18)

3. Reprogram your thinking: you must want to be a godly mate.

4. Set your will to keep being honest with God. (Ephesians 4:23)

5. Set your mind on what you want.

6. Take one step at a time.

7. Refuse to stop and look back. (Isaiah 43:19)

8. Mutually submit to one another. (Ephesians 5:21; Matthew 6:33)

III. The command to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 1:28)

A. Spiritual reproduction is caused by immaturity and selfishness.

B. God wants godly offspring. (Luke 2:52)

C. The discipline of children and their security goes together. (Proverbs 5:23; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:23-24; 29:17)

D. We ought to enjoy our children.

E. Work helps to instill self-discipline in children.

F. Children need to know patriotism.

IV. Our marriage is a witness to the world today.

Application questions:

1. How can a couple solve conflict in marriage?

2. What are some things you will do differently in child rearing?

3. What do you need to do to make your marriage more of a positive witness in the world?
