

## ENJOY YOUR MARRIAGE—RELATIONSHIP

By Pastor Rene Lussier

### 2- INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP

This is an area where many couples struggle and fail.

We all have our personality, character, and temperament.

After you got married, you quickly realize that you married more than a body. You have to deal with manifestations of emotions—fear, anger, etc.

- Someone defined love as:

*“...A feeling you feel when you get a feeling you’ve never felt before.”*

*“...A perpetual state of anesthesia.”*

**Feelings change.** What happens when the good feelings cool off?

- In society today, many would look for another “*good feeling*”
- In a marriage relationship, there are times when you do not feel in love.
- Christian couples should guard against making decisions based on fluctuating emotions.

How can you protect your relationship?—**Phil 2:3-4**

*“Do nothing from selfishness and pride—Regard one another as more important. Don’t look for personal interest only—but to the interests of others.”*

*Rom. 12:10 Be devoted to one another, Honor one another above yourselves (NIV), Be kindly affectionate one to another, in honor preferring one another (KJV)*

**Philostorgos:** Cherishing one’s kindred (parents, children), mutual love between parents and children, wives and husbands, loving tenderly, reciprocal tenderness.

- Show honor to your spouse: in words and actions (loving behavior)
- The word **honor: time (teemay)** value by which the price is fixed.

Honor is defined as *“making the decision to attach “high value” to someone, to treat them as a priceless treasure in our lives.”*

**Gary Smalley**—marriage counsellor, *“Honor is the most important principle for building relationships”*

- Most of conflicts and quarrels are the result of not knowing how to value and respect each other.
- When someone is not valued, he will fight and try to establish his own value, his worth. (It is a need—Battle of the genders) There will be lack of respect—insult, aggressiveness, complaining.

#### The importance of honor in marriage

1 Pet 3:7 **amp**, In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered *and* cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]

#### IN CONTRAST

Prov 5:3, For the lips of a loose woman drip honey as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil; [Ezek. 20:30; Col. 2:8-10; II Pet. 2:14-17.]

Prov 5:4, But all that you really get from being with her is bitter poison and pain...

Prov 5:8, Let your way in life be far from her, and come not near the door of her house [avoid the very scenes of temptation], [Prov. 4:15; Rom. 16:17; I Thess. 5:19-22.]

Prov 5:9, **Lest you give your honor to others** and your years to those without mercy,

CEV- 9 You will lose your self-respect and end up in debt to some cruel person for the rest of your life.

10 Strangers will get your money and everything else you have worked for. 11 When it's all over, your body will waste away, as you groan 12 and shout, "I hated advice and correction!

NLT- 9If you do, you will lose your honor and hand over to merciless people everything you have achieved in life. 10Strangers will obtain your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. 11Afterward you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body,

**MESSAGE** <sup>PROV 5:3</sup> The lips of a seductive woman are oh so sweet, her soft words are oh so smooth. 4But it won't be long before she's gravel in your mouth, a pain in your gut, a wound in your heart.

8Keep your distance from such a woman; absolutely stay out of her neighborhood.

9You don't want to squander your wonderful life, to waste your precious life among the hardhearted.

10Why should you allow strangers to take advantage of you? Why be exploited by those who care nothing for you?

11You don't want to end your life full of regrets, nothing but sin and bones, 12Saying, "Oh, why didn't I do what they told me? Why did I reject a disciplined life? 13Why didn't I listen to my mentors, or take my teachers seriously? 14My life is ruined! I haven't one blessed thing to show for my life!"

### **Never Take Love for Granted**

15Do you know the saying, "Drink from your own rain barrel, draw water from your own spring fed well"? 16It's true. Otherwise, you may one day come home and find your barrel empty and your well polluted. 17Your spring water is for you and you only, not to be passed around among strangers.

18Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man!

19Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose-- don't ever quit taking delight in her body. Never take her love for granted!

20Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills with a whore? for dalliance (*wasting time flirting*) with a promiscuous stranger?

21Mark well that GOD doesn't miss a move you make; he's aware of every step you take. 22The shadow of your sin will overtake you; you'll find yourself stumbling all over yourself in the dark. 23Death is the reward of an undisciplined life; your foolish decisions trap you in a dead end.

**Contemporary English Version** <sup>Prov 5:17</sup> Save yourself for your wife and don't have sex with other women.

18 Be happy with the wife you married when you were young.

19 She is beautiful and graceful, just like a deer; you should be attracted to her and stay deeply in love.

20 Don't go crazy over a woman who is unfaithful to her own husband!

21 The LORD sees everything, and he watches us closely.

22 Sinners are trapped and caught by their own evil deeds.

23 They get lost and die because of their foolishness and lack of self-control.

## DOBSON-

*“Nothing builds her esteem more than for you to let her (and others) know that you respect and value her as a person. And nothing destroys her self-confidence more quickly than your ridicule or rejection”*

▪ What can be worse than verbal abuse, physical abuse or adultery...

Eph 5:33, However, let each man of you [without exception] love his wife as [being in a sense] his very own self; and let the wife see that she respects *and* reverences her husband [that she notices him, regards him, honors him, prefers him, venerates, and esteems him; and that she defers to him, praises him, and loves and admires him exceedingly]. [I Pet. 3:2.]

- On his 50th wedding anniversary, **Henry Ford's** advice for marital bliss and long life was: "Just the same as in the automobile business, stick to one model."

Make a commitment to wake up each morning and think of ways to honor your spouse.

Ask your spouse: "How could I make you feel like a priceless treasure today?"

*1 Pet. 3:1 "Husbands, in the same way, be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect...(NIV)*

*"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge giving honor to the wife." (KJV)*

**Gnosis:** having the knowledge, the understanding of your spouse—moods, likes, dislikes, sensitivity when tired, moral wisdom, and right living.

We have a tendency to demonstrate our love in the same manner we like to receive it."

**ILLUSTRATION:** a well-meaning husband wanted to please his wife.

He came home early with flowers, cards and said: "Hi, honey! I love you so much." His wife started to cry:

*"Everything's gone wrong today, the baby's grouchy, dishwasher won't work, now you come home drunk."*

## ASSIGNMENT 3

List what you think your spouse needs to feel honored. Make it privately, then compare and discuss.

## BEAUTY

**Pastor Brenneman:** *"Men, you can make your wives more beautiful. And women, you can contribute to help your husband do that."*

Many women connect appearance and "self-worth" (perfect body)

**Joey O'Connor**—in his book *"Women are always right and men are never wrong"*, said:

*"Physical fitness is no measure for a healthy marriage. A healthy marriage is characterized by how husbands and wives honor and respect each other regardless of physical appearance."*

*1 Samuel. 16:7 Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart—*

## INNER BEAUTY

*1Pet 3:3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,*

**Inner beauty**—behavior without words. Purity, respect, unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, can break the strongest man.

*"...They may be won over... no man can resist inner beauty..." (V. 1)*

**Joey O'Connor** gives this advice:

*"Whatever you look like and however you feel about your body, use what you've got to be attractive to your spouse, but more important, work on being a person of the heart."*

- **Use what you've got to be attractive to your spouse**

*I visited a lady who just found out her husband was unfaithful. Unfortunately, what I saw in her home made me sad. She looked tired. The house was in a mess and the husband was driving the Mercedes of his new found love whom surely looked fresh and charming.*

- *My wife always thought that it was important to be found attractive by her husband.*

**According to a survey:** What creates a strong relationship?

To the general surprise, the amount of ENJOYABLE TIME AND ACTIVITIES couples had together came up as the strongest factor.

- What kills love?

Love may die when you spend little or no time together, when you stop sharing activities that are enjoyable.

It is important to keep the romance alive.

- Do you remember what you used to do that was fun when you first dated? Can you innovate?  
Flowers, restaurant, sport, hiking, flower show, sharing activities even at home if we do not have money?

1. PRACTICE AFFECTION: (hugging and holding each other), walking hands in hands, Offering small gifts, flowers, holding doors, showing small attentions.
2. SHARE ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES: Continue dating, get a baby sitter and go out on a date alone or with other friends.
3. COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER DAILY