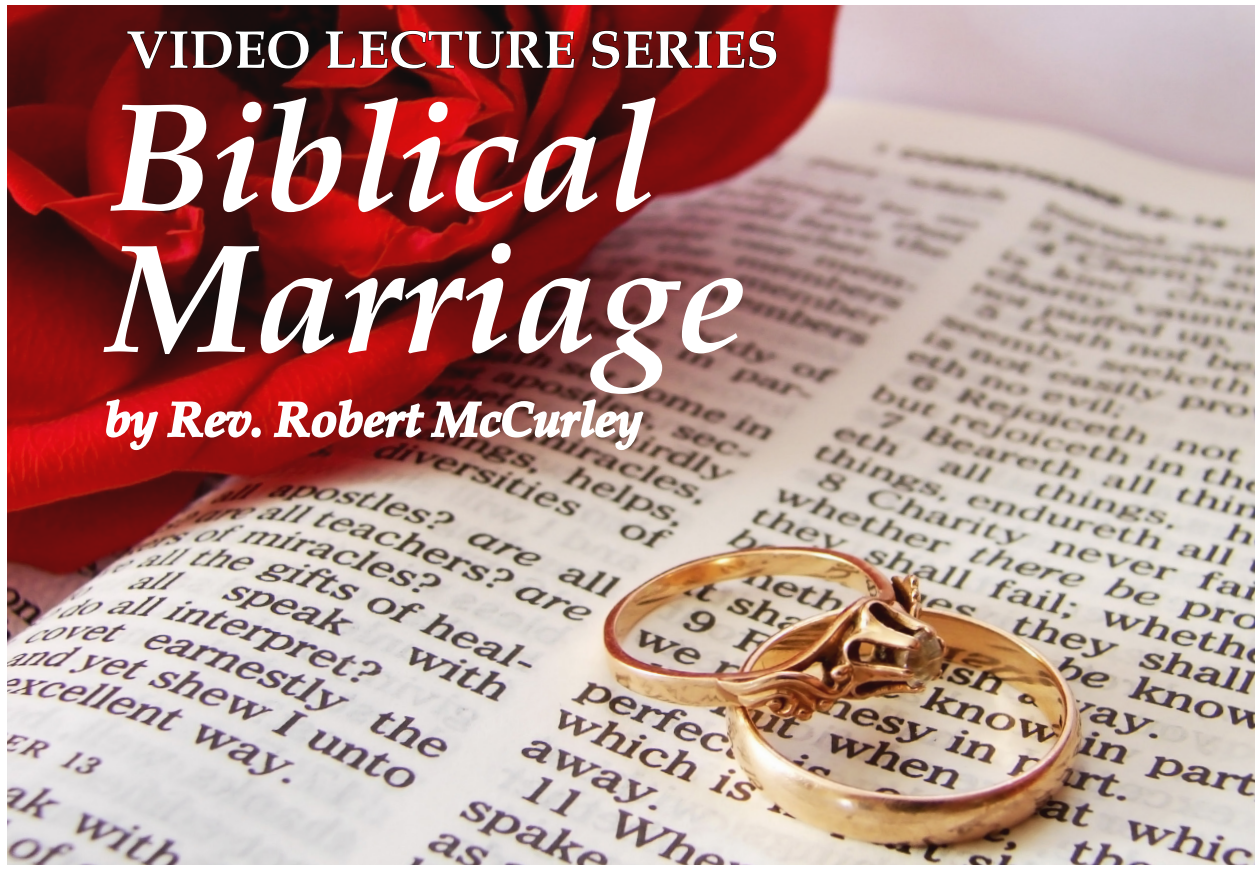


VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

Biblical Marriage

by Rev. Robert McCurley



Lecture #2

Unity in Marriage



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Biblical Marriage

in 8 Lectures

by Rev. Robert McCurley

1. Priorities in a Christian Marriage

2. The Unity in Marriage

3. Headship

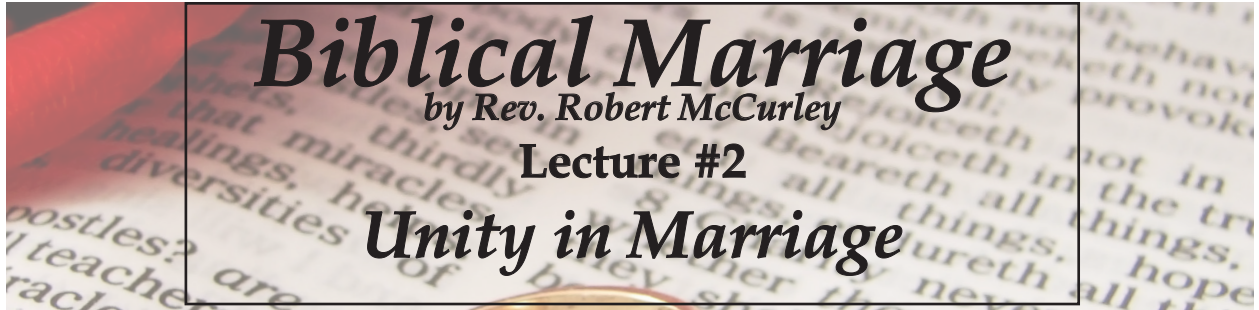
4. Servant and Shepherd

5. Godly Wives 1

6. Godly Wives 2

7. Communication

8. Finances and Physical Relationship



Introduction: Marriage is like a tightly-woven cord.

I. Unity—a Top Priority in Marriage

A. The threat to unity is sin. It is sinners who marry. War against sin is the believer’s greatest struggle.

- Romans 7, verse 14
- James 3, verse 2
- James 4, verse 1

Two major sins that threaten unity are: _____ (me first)
_____ (me best)

B. Biblical conflict resolution.

What is the right motivation for biblical conflict resolution?

Requirements and commitments for biblical conflict resolution:

- 1) Be open about what was sinful or hurtful. Cultivate trust with honesty—Matthew 18, verse 15.
- 2) Admit your own offence and sin, even before being told by the other—Matthew 5, verses 23–24
- 3) Humility—1 Peter 5, verses 5 and 6
- 4) Self-denial
- 5) Have greater commitment to a godly marriage than our own rights and feelings.
- 6) Willingness to grant biblical forgiveness
 - a) Forgiveness includes: _____
 - b) Ephesians 4, verse 32
 - c) How forgiveness of sin is pictured in the Bible.
- 7) The right attitudes to pursue forgiveness
 - Galatians 6, verse 1
 - 1 Peter 5, verse 5

C. Biblical patterns of reconciliation:

- 1) Overlook an offence in love if possible—1 Peter 4, verse 6
- 2) Gently confront a spouse with his or her sin—Matthew 18, verse 15
- 3) Humbly receive admonition and be reconciled.

II. Godly Husbands and Wives Serve Christ in Unity as Co-heirs: Heirs together of the grace of life—1 Peter 3, verse 7

A. Serving Christ together:

1. Husbands

- a. Know and understand the wife—1 Peter 3, verse 7
- b. Know her well enough to utilize her insight, gifts, abilities as a helpmeet.
- c. Know how she is the weaker vessel and care for her accordingly.
- d. Understand her physical, emotional, spiritual limitations and sensibilities
- e. Be devoted and give honor to her—1 Peter 3, verse 7; Proverbs 31, verse 28
- f. Support, encourage, defend and praise her in front of others
- g. Chirish her by not doing what is rude—1 Corinthians 13, verse 5
- h. Cheer up their wives—Deuteronomy 24, verse 5

2. Wives

- a. Respect and honour husband—Ephesians 5, verses 22 to 24
- b. Strengthen, defend, assist husband even in areas of weakness—see Abigail in 1 Samuel 25.
- c. Be prudent in decision-making—Proverbs 18, verse 14
- d. Know and fulfill husband's wishes as able—1 Peter 3; Titus 2, verse 5
- e. Be industrious and productive—Proverbs 31
- f. Be silent in the church and ask questions at home—1 Corinthians 14, verse 35
- g. Seek spiritual instruction and oversight from husband
- h. Assist to lovingly raise children.
- i. Assist and teach the younger women—Titus 2, verses 4 and 5

B. When cultivating harmony, ask, “What are your complementary strengths and weaknesses?”

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| spiritually- | interests- |
| emotionally- | gifts and abilities- |
| physically (i.e., health, strength, energy) | personality traits- |

III. The Bond of Unity and the Marriage Vow

- God provided the ordinance of vows to preserve marriage relationships. What is a vow?
Biblical references: “wife by covenant”—Malachi 2, verse 14
“yoked”—2 Corinthians 6, verse 14
“cleaving and becoming one flesh”—Genesis 2, verse 24
- God himself has joined a husband and wife together—Matthew 19, verse 6
- Marriage vows are:
 - 1) first to God himself—Deuteronomy 23, verse 21
 - 2) a pledge to one another—Malachi 2
 - 3) witnessed by others; the Bible speaks solemnly of witnesses—Joshua 24, verse 22
 - 4) not to be taken lightly—Ecclesiastes 5, verse 2
 - 5) not to be broken—Ecclesiastes 5, verses 4–5; Psalm 76, verse 11; Psalm 15; verse 4

Review Questions

1. Using the picture of a tightly-braided anchor rope, list several of the considerations and practices that strengthen marital unity.

2. One way to avoid addressing conflict is to “sweep a matter under the rug.” What does this mean? How does it compare with biblical conflict resolution?

3. When resolving a conflict in which one spouse has sinned against another, what are the complementary duties of each spouse? How will they be able to meet in the middle?

4. How are the duties of husbands and wives linked to the differences in their ordained roles?

5. What bond has God ordained to make a marriage permanent and how is this challenged by sinful reasoning?
