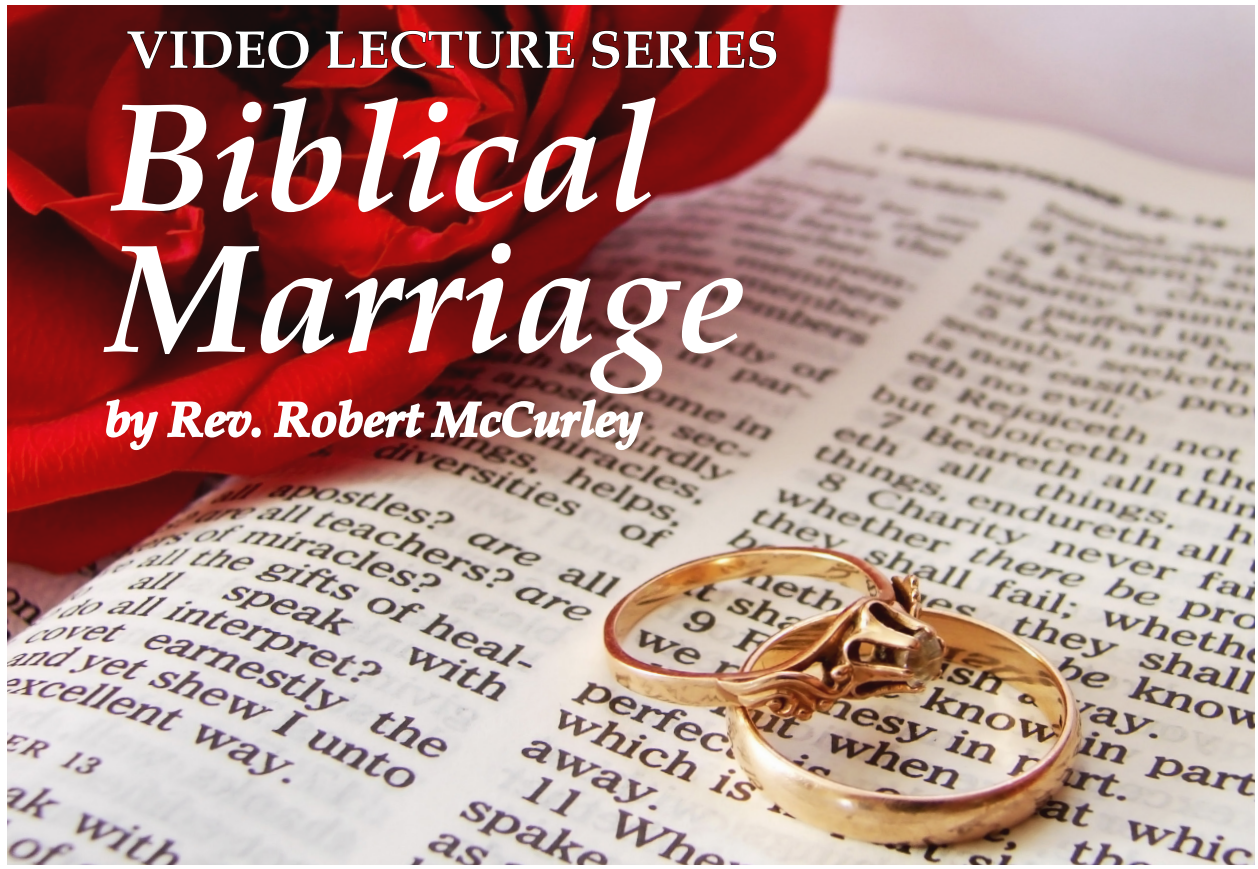


VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

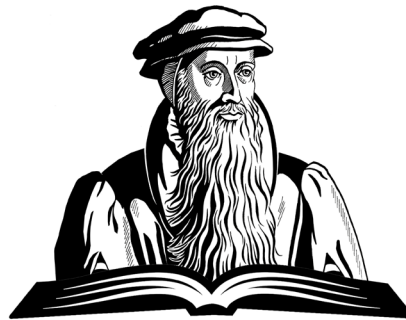
Biblical Marriage

by Rev. Robert McCurley



Lecture #7

Communication



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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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

Biblical Marriage

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Lecture #7

Communication

Introduction-

I. Cultivating Unity Through Godly Communication

A. Breakdown in communication is one of the most common areas of marital dysfunction.

1. Ephesians 4, verse 29

B. Tongue is tied to the heart—Matthew 15, verse 18

C. Our speech is actually a test of our spirituality—James 1, verse 26

D. Prerequisites to godly communication:

- 1. Desire to please Christ above all.
- 2. Cultivate a growing sense of gospel humility—Ephesians 4, verses 1–3; Philippians 1, verses 1–4; James 4, verses 6–7; 1 Peter 5, verses 5–9
- 3. Sense of accountability for your words—Matthew 12, verses 36–37
- 4. Commitment to taking the time to communicate

E. Non-verbal communication examples:

F. Verbal communication:

- 1. Actual listening-
 - i. commit to listen first, then to speak—James 1, verse 19; Proverbs 10, verse 19; Proverbs 18, verse 13
- 2. Seven practical guidelines:

- 3. Speaking: bridle the tongue—James 3:
- 4. Be open and honest
- 5. Be gracious in how you speak—Proverbs 15, verse 1; Colossians 4, verse 6; Ephesians 4, verses 29–32
- 6. Avoid harshness—Proverbs 26, verses 4–5
- 7. Timing: when is a good time?—Proverbs 15, verse 28

G. Some subjects are easier to talk about than others. Work on the areas that are most challenging. For example: your spiritual walk, opinions, interests, emotions, goals, plans, expectations, finances, biblical convictions, work, parenting, dreams, physical intimacy, friends, problems, failures, victories, current events, what you read....

H. Two possible errors:

1. “Explode,” rather than reprove with a gentle spirit—Galatians 6, verse 1; Matthew 18, verse 15; Proverbs 25, verse 12
2. Clam up, pull inward, shut down. Can be sinful.

I. Cultivate spiritual conversation—Malachi 3, verses 16–18

1. Spiritual mindedness produces spiritual conversation—Romans 8, verses 5–6; Colossians 3
2. Study one another to know how to best stir one another up—Hebrews 10, verse 24

J. Additional practical suggestions:

1. admit guilt—Proverbs 20, verse 6
2. avoid using blame or emotional words—James 1, verses 13–15
3. do not bring up grudges. (Forgiven things are to be forgotten.)
4. learn to communicate nonverbally.
5. understand what is behind what the other is saying.
6. be angrier about your own sin than your spouse’s—Job 40, verses 3–5; Job 40, verses 3–5; Ezra 9, verse 6

I. Marital Unity in Child Rearing

A. Talk about children before they arrive: be unified in your perspective and plan.

1. Consider that children belong to the Lord—Genesis 17, verse 7
2. Goal is to raise up a godly seed for the Lord—Malachi 2, verse 15
3. Children are a blessing—Psalm 127, verses 3–5
4. Foolish, ungodly children are a curse to their parents—Proverbs 10, verse 1; 15, verse 20; 17, verse 25; 19, verse 13; 21, verse 20
5. Temporary stewardship

B. Proactive training:

1. Discuss spiritual matters and teach children constantly—Deuteronomy 6; Deuteronomy 11, verse 19; Hebrews 3, verse 13
2. Pray to see biblical faithfulness passed down through the generations—Psalm 78, verses 5–6; Deuteronomy 4, verse 9
3. Christian education, family worship, discipline are non-optional

C. Discipline:

1. It is corrective, to train—Hebrews 12, verses 9–11
2. Use during childhood—Proverbs 19, verse 18
3. Discipline is not to satisfy parent’s unrighteous desire for control, for vengeance, for irritation, inconvenience, or for accidental damage.
4. Discipline is a matter of serving and obeying the Lord. Failure to chasten is actually rebellion against God—Proverbs 23, verse 13–14; Proverbs 13, verse 24; Proverbs 19, verse 18
5. Failure to discipline brings shame—Proverbs 29, verse 15–17
6. Failure to chasten is a means of honouring children above God—1 Samuel 2, verse 29; 1 Samuel 3, verse 13
7. God ordained the rod for the family (Hebrews 12), the sword for the _____, (Romans 13, verse 4) and keys for the _____ (Matthew 16, verse 19).
8. Faith is required to believe Proverbs 22, verse 15 and to act on it.

Children need both instruction and chastening—Proverbs 29, verse 15

The rod is necessary—Proverbs 10, verse 13; 22, verse 15; 26, verse 3

9. Use of the rod is motivated by love—Proverbs 13, verse 24; 19, verse 18

10. Using the rod may be a means of saving a child’s soul from eternal death—Proverbs 23, verses 13–14

11. Parallel between a parent and child, and God’s dealings with his children—Hebrews 12, verses 9–11

12. Discipline can be fruitful.

13. Discipline is for the attitude as well as the child’s actions.

14. Discipline should be prompt—Proverbs 13, verses 2–4

15. Consistency is number One! List the benefits of consistency:

D. “Provoke not” your children...—Ephesians 6, verse 4; Colossians 3, verse 21

Ways to provoke to discouragement:

- inconsistent discipline,
- disciplining out of selfish frustration,
- misjudging child’s motives,
- falsely accusing them, or
- failing to admit our own wrongs and not asking for forgiveness.

Review Questions

1. How important is communication in a godly marriage?

2. What problems often arise with communication in marriage, and how does God say to address them?

3. Study what the Bible says about the tongue and speech. How does this apply to marriage?

4. If God gives children, what does he say about raising those children?

5. Why is it essential that spouses be united in their understanding of these matters?

6. What biblical principles do you think are important to teach children from an early age?
