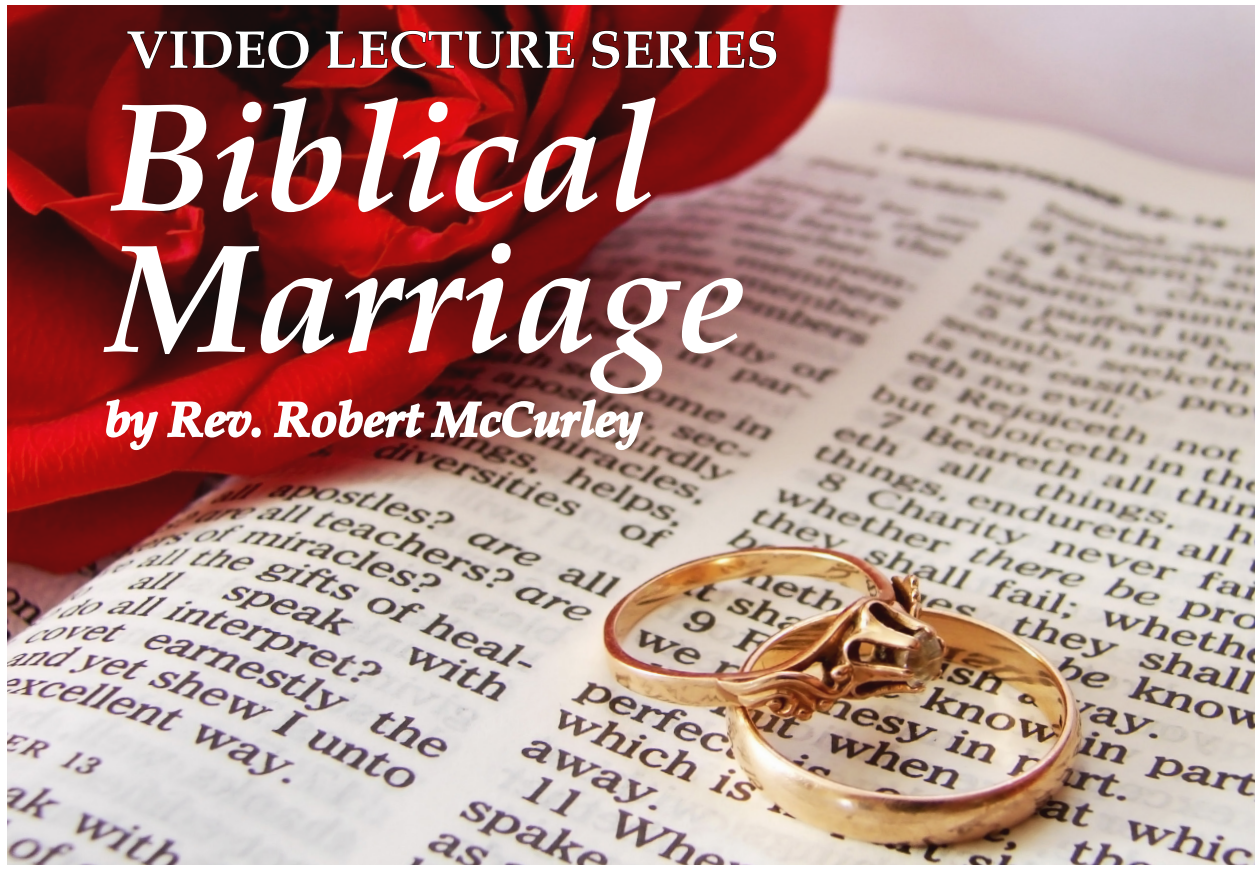


VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

Biblical Marriage

by Rev. Robert McCurley



Lecture #8

Finances and Physical Relationship



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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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

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Lecture #8

Finances and Physical Relationship

Introduction: the blueprint.

I. Unity in Finances

Husbands and wives may come from very different backgrounds: finances are another means of pursuing unity.

A. Biblical view of money and stewardship

1. Our possessions belong to _____—Psalm 24, verse 1
2. 1 Chronicles 29, verse 11–12
3. God gives or withholds wealth—1 Corinthians 4, verse 7
4. Trust in the Lord, not in riches—Matthew 6, verses 25–24; 1 Timothy 6, verse 17; Proverbs 16, verse 3
5. We must be faithful stewards
6. Wealth is given for a means to advance the kingdom of Christ—Proverbs 15, verse 16; Ecclesiastes 2, verses 10–11

B. Relationship of family and money

1. Husband is responsible before God to provide for his family—1 Timothy 5, verse 8; Ephesians 5, verse 29
2. Husband is to work hard and use given gifts in pursuit of meeting the family's needs—Proverbs 13, verse 11; 1 Thessalonians 4, verses 10–12
3. Contentment—1 Timothy 6, verse 6; Philippians 4, verses 11–13
 - has to be cultivated.
4. Generosity- connected to contentment.
 - Why are Christians a generous people? Prov 11:24-25, Eph 4:28

C. Priorities with money

1. Give the Lord his portion first—Proverbs 3, verses 9–10; Malachi 3, verses 8–12
2. Have a wise plan—Luke 14, verse 28
3. Save when possible—Proverbs 27, verses 23–24
4. Foresee and prepare for difficulties.
5. Beware of debt—Proverbs 22, verse 7; Romans 13, verse 8
6. Get godly counsel for difficult decisions—Proverbs 15, verse 22; 19, verse 20; 20, verse 18

D. The root problem in conflicts is not just about finances: the root problem is found

- _____. Various examples:
1. Pride—Proverbs 18, verse 12

2. Selfishness—Philippians 2, verses 2–4
3. Idolatry-
4. Laziness—Proverbs 13, verse 4
5. Irresponsibility—Proverbs 25, verse 19
6. Men pleasing-

E. What does the Bible call us to?

- Repentance
- Study the biblical principles God has given regarding finances.
- Prayer—Philippians 4, verse 6
- Planning—Proverbs 6, verses 6–8; Proverbs 27, verses 23–24
- Diligence
- Establish financial goals that are drawn from scripture: conform to _____

II. Unity in the Sexual Relationship

Biblical discretion is needed as we discuss matters addressed clearly in the Bible. In this day of extremes, Christians need a clear grasp of the biblical perspective on the sexual relationship in marriage.

A. Sanctity of marital intimacy

1. ordained and designed by God. Glorifies and pleases Him when maintained within his prescribed parameters—Genesis 2, verses 24–25; Hebrews 13, verse 4
2. Everything connected to the sexual experience must be limited to the marriage relationship.
 - Seventh commandment—Exodus 20
 - Jesus’ reference in Mathew 5, verses 27–30
 - Marriage provides a fence for thoughts, words, actions—Proverbs 2, verses 16–19; Proverbs 5, verses 1–14 and 20–23; Proverbs 6, verse 20 through 7, verse 27.
 - all forms of sexual perversion transgress God’s design even within marriage.
 - courting relationship boundaries.
3. Earthly marriage points to a heavenly marriage and the greater spiritual ecstasy of joy that awaits the believer in communion with God in heaven to come.
4. Song of Solomon

B. Unity in the sexual relationship

1. Physical intimacy should be a tangible expression of an inward reality, i.e., of true spiritual unity.
2. Where true spiritual unity exists, the sexual relationship has greater meaning and pleasure.
3. Practically, outstanding conflicts should be resolved before marital intimacy. Intimacy not to be used to cover up disunity.
4. From the beginning of marriage, establish patterns of open communication. Discuss what is most meaningful to each other.
5. Regarding blessings of the sexual relationship:
 - a gift of God
 - Proverbs 5, verses 18–9, satiate
 - Paul, in 1 Corinthians 7, verses 3–5, undue abstinence, except in special circumstances, should be avoided.

- frequency is determined mutually; not a matter of taking or withholding but giving to the other.
- love gives preference to one another—Romans 12, verse 10
- intended to bring blessing to both spouses—1 Corinthians 7
- men and women are created differently.
- the sexual relationship should be an area where oneness and communication between spouses is pursued.

Conclusion: there is hope!

Review Questions

1. Why are finances often a source of disunity in marriage?

2. What does the Bible teach about money?

3. Why is cultivating contentment necessary for handling finances in marriage?

4. What place does God assign to the physical relationship in marriage?

5. How can the physical aspect of marriage be used for the glory of God?

6. What biblical principles for married life apply to single life as well?
