

Biblical Marriage Study

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Study #3

What the Bible says about the impact of sin on marriage.

Last time we discussed the consequences of the fall in Genesis 3 and how that affects the marriage relationship. This time we will look at the impact of sin upon marriage.

What does sin entail?

To disobey God's directions for life or to do that which displeases God. Another word for sin is unrighteousness or doing that which is not right in God's eyes.

For the believer to have a growing/positive relationship with God he/she must deal aggressively with sin in his/her life. Someone read 1 John 1:9...near the end of the Bible.

According to this verse, what is required to deal with sin?

Confession

The original Greek word for confession is homologeo, meaning to say the same thing or agreeing with another's words. It implies that confession is to say the same thing about the subject confessing as God says about it.

Consider an example of true confession, homologeo, and a flawed confession.

Example – a person had lustful thoughts and flirted with someone not his or her spouse.

Flawed confession: *“Lord, you know I'm like most men (or women) you created, and I was just window shopping and have no intention of carrying it further. Help me with my weakness for other's bodies.”*

Homologeo confession: *“Lord I sinned against you and I sinned against my spouse. I was utterly unfaithful to my vows and am destroying the sanctity of our marriage. I lusted and agree with Jesus that it is a sin just as is physical adultery. Only the blood of Jesus can atone for that sin and I thank you it.”*

What sins are included in the provisions of this verse?

All of them. Every sin.

Someone read Psalm 66:18. Someone else read Isaiah 59:2. According to these verses, what is the consequence of sin in a person's life?

Separation from God. Blocked communication. God will not hear us.

The second step of dealing with sin is repentance. Someone read from the Gospel of Luke 13:1-5. What does repentance mean?

Regret or sorrow for a sin or for having been involved in a lifestyle of sin.

How do we accomplish repentance?

Repentance involves the commitment to change from the sinful act or sinful lifestyle, resulting in a changed life.

How does the military command “about face” relate to repentance?

“About face” means physically what repentance means psychologically and spiritually. It involves a decision and includes the active process of turning away from one’s sinful ways.

Let’s look at that portion of the Ten Commandments which pertains to the marriage relationship. Someone read Exodus 20:14.

God’s understanding of the powerful consequences of a wrong physical relationship resulted in the commandment: “You shall not commit adultery.” What are the potential consequences of wrong sex in...

1. Adultery (sex with someone other than your spouse in marriage)?
One becomes wrongly united...committed physically, spiritually, and psychologically to someone outside the marriage. That union works against God’s design for the couple relationship and cannot glorify God.
2. Fornication (sex before marriage)?
We become powerfully united, lose objective judgment about the other person, and may marry a person who is not God’s selection for us.

Someone read Exodus 20:17. What does “covet” mean?

It is a thought process. It means to have a deep desire...to yearn for something or someone that belongs to someone else.

If someone covets he/she breaks God’s commandment. He/she sins. What must you do to avoid coveting?

Reject the first covetous thought.

Someone read Romans 12:2. What are we told not to do?

Not to conform any longer to the pattern of this world

What does “conform” mean?

A process of fitting into a pattern...in this case a pattern of worldly thought which leads to worldly living...living according to man/woman’s nature which is opposite to God’s way.

Romans 12:2 then says something that we are supposed to do. What is that?

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Renewing our mind describes the process to defeat sin at its beginning by dealing with thoughts. This transforming process is called “sanctification.” Sanctification is the life process of being daily conformed to the image of Jesus. Breath by breath, step by step, choosing to live according to the pattern of life that Jesus lived out as an example for us.

What are some very practical ways that the transformed life of a Christian differs from the world’s pattern?

Someone read Matthew 5:27-30. What importance does Jesus give to covetous/adulterous thought in verse 28?

It is equal to adultery in the eyes of God who knows our every thought...our heart.

Read James 1:13-15. Note the progression a person may experience in sexual temptation.

When does James say the temptation turns into sin?

When the desire is conceived.

How could a husband or wife preempt the arrival of the sin of lust or preempt the conception of the desire?

Recognize where most prone to the temptation and make efforts to diligently and consistently avoid those incidents.

Find an accountability partner in that area of your life.

As soon as the temptation arises, immediately cut it off by an act of the will and whatever actions necessary to remove the temptation or remove self from it.

If the temptation does conceive by our willing entertainment of the sexual stimulus, confess it as sin and seek forgiveness and strength in the future.

How strongly does Jesus feel that we should deal with our thoughts and acts according to verses 29 and 30?

Do whatever is necessary to control your thoughts and desires. If you do not have spiritual victory over your sinful thoughts and actions, the result is eternity in hell.

In this study we learned that God intends for marriage to be a unique unity, a team of two, bound by a mysterious oneness that involves sexual and spiritual components. We looked at the destructive elements of sin upon our oneness with God and specifically the effects of wrong sex and thoughts on both our relationship with God and our unity with our spouse. In closing will someone read Genesis 2:24?

What do you suppose the effects of adultery or coveting would be on this relationship?

Tragically destructive. In some cases it may not be possible to restore the relationship.

Would anyone like to comment on what this study has meant to you or how you would apply the things we have learned in this lesson to grow spiritually?