

Number 8

Complicated

11-22-20

#1 The family is a 'world in miniature', where life lessons are learned!

#2 A Biblical marriage Exalts the woman and demands Leadership by the man!

#3 A Biblical marriage relationship will teach healthy lifelong values to children!

#4 Sin messes up everything!

Hebrews 12:15 (ESV)

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace (power) of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Failing to obtain Grace means we are unable to operate in the power of God. Therefore, we will operate out of the flesh, self-interests, and become bitter defiling many others.

Forgiveness necessary to obtain Grace, the power of God. Unforgiveness keep us locked in the past. If we do not forgive, we continually live out past conflicts in the present. It is like developing different programs on your computer. After the program is in place, all we have to do is press one key and the whole program appears and directs our following actions. Likewise, we have past offenses locked in our heads. The full event and circumstances are recorded. Therefore, we only need one word or press one button to bring the whole event into vivid memory. This program will therefore control all our actions. One time I had a counseling session with a couple. The counseling session immediately erupted in an argument.

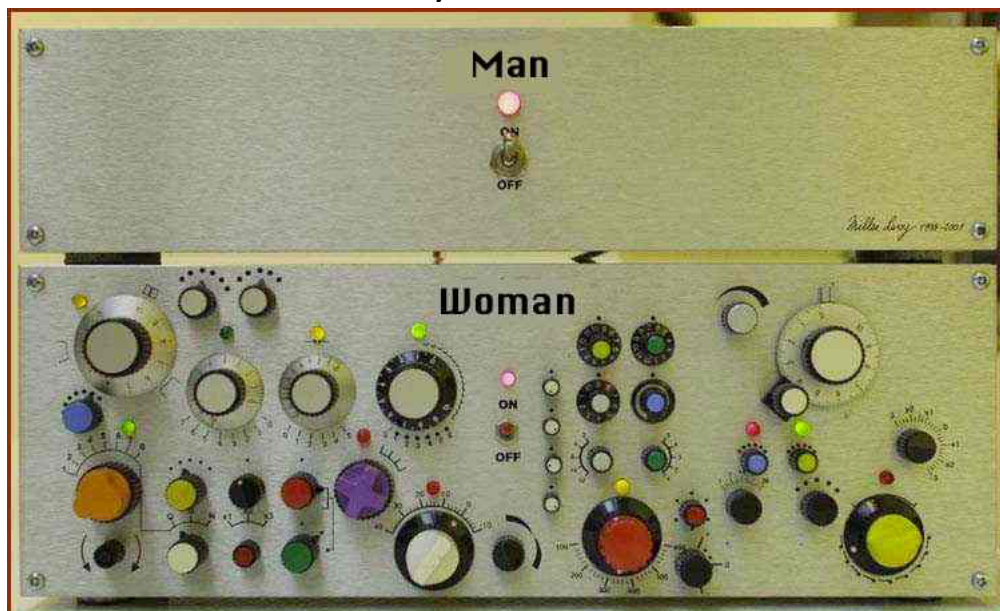
As I listened to them, I couldn't understand anything they were talking about. One spouse made an accusation. Then the other spouse said, "What about Pittsburg?" Then other said, "Oh yeah, how about last Christmas?" The other then said, "Florida, that settles it." Now the other is standing and said, "No, it doesn't, it was all your mother." **They knew the issues so well all they had to do was say key words and the other knew exactly what the other meant.** In other words, they pressed one key and the whole program came up. Here is the problem. The current issue was built on the unforgiveness of past issues. Without forgiveness they were stuck in the past and unable to operate in the Grace (power) of God.

This is the difficulty with counseling. The current issue presented to the counselor is almost never the real issue. The current issue is in fact built upon past unresolved issues. Here is another example. Years ago, I was counselling a much older couple. They were very upset with each other. After a long session with intense exchanges, I thought I understood the problem. She had misunderstood something the husband had said. Therefore, I shared my thoughts with the wife. If looks could kill, I would be dead now. She angrily looked at me and said, "Maybe so, but he didn't come to little Johnny's Christening!" Then they continued verbally attacking each other. I was stunned and at a complete loss for words. I knew their son, little Johnny. He was 30 years old. Talk about unresolved issues. Picture this. In a rural area where the whole family and your friends come to the local church to attend your baby's christening and the husband says, "I am not going."

That devastating experience was the starting point for every conflict for the rest of their married life. When nothing is settled bitterness develops. This is not limited to big issues. There are multiple of small issues that build up all through our marriage. If left unresolved bitterness develops. The Bible tells us to deal with all the little issues that accumulate and may damage our marriage.

Song of Solomon 2:15 (ESV)
Catch the foxes for us,
the little foxes
that spoil the vineyards.

To deal with the little foxes, we need to understand how the husband and wife think. Husbands and wives process information differently.



There are many great and humorous comparisons about how the husband and wife's brain functions differently.

One analogy is a desk. The husband and wife have the same information. The husband has all his information in individual drawers of his desk. The wife has all her information on top of her desk. In a discussion the husband will open the appropriate drawer pertaining to the specific conversation. Change the conversation and he put the current information back in its drawer and then opens the appropriate drawer for the next conversation. Since the wife has all her information on top of the desk, she easily jumps from one subject to another. Therefore, the wife smoothly moves from one subject to another while the husband is encumbered by trying to keep all his information straight and in the appropriate drawer. This may lead to intense frustration and unkind words. We need to understand and make allowances for these differences. Biblically, this is an example the little foxes that spoil the marriage.

The title to this message is “Complicated”! The diversity in our abilities and gifts make us complicated. However, the very things that make us complicated are meant to enhance our marriage. This following verse concerns spiritual gifts but communicates natural gifts God gives to mankind and the marriage.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (ESV)

Now there are “varieties” of gifts, but the “same” Spirit!

If we don’t see these differences as resources, we will see them as irritations ruining our marriage.

Let me share when I discovered that an irritation was in fact a great resource. Linda and I lived in a townhouse in Reston. One morning I was in the kitchen cleaning up after breakfast. I was implementing an "I love you" to Linda. Linda came in just as I was finishing. Before her eyes even had time to focus, in a millisecond, she asked me to pick up an item that I had missed. I calmly put the item away and went into our living room. I was frustrated beyond measure. I had spent 30 minutes cleaning the kitchen and, in a millisecond, she saw the one thing I missed. How can that even be possible? Linda is in the kitchen drinking a cup of tea at the kitchen table. There is a big window by the kitchen table. Perplexed I really could not understand how she could so quickly see the one thing I missed. What does she see? I went into the kitchen and I asked her to look out the window and look back at me. She did. I asked her, "What did you see?" She said, "Well, our Dogwood tree is out front. The sun is shining down on the tree. Where the sun is hitting, the leaves look kind of yellow, but where it's shaded, the leaves look dark green. The blossoms are coming out. Each blossom has four petals, and they are a beautiful pink with a dark pink edge. Each blossom has an almond shaped center with antenna like stems coming out of the center and the car is out front and needs to be washed. About that time our 15 year old son came in. I asked him to look out the window and tell me what he saw. He said, "I see a tree." I said, "Okay what else?" He said, "There is nothing but a tree." I said, "Look again, there is more out there than a tree." He said, "Grass. There is nothing out there but a tree and grass."

Amazed I realized, “She sees things I don’t see!” At that moment, her ability stopped being an irritation, and became an asset. Now, whatever we do or whoever we talked to, I always want to know what she saw and heard because she saw and heard something that I didn’t see or hear.

God didn’t make a mistake! My irritation was actually a resource. Here again this verse concerns spiritual gifts. However, we can apply this verse to the natural gifts God has given to mankind and the marriage.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Sin messes up everything, but proper teaching and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit will lead God’s people to behave like Christ which will Exalt the woman and demand Leadership by the man which will model godliness to your children.