

A Loving Family

Christians do not get much help from . . .

- Media
- Society
- Family
- Even other Christians
- Society / media influence us
 - 1 Sm.25
 - If marriage is not nurtured, it will fail
- 1 Tim.3:4

I. Love

Love regulates every relationship

- Mk.12:28-30

- First: love for God, all our might, emotion, intellect, will
 - Heart: not mere affection, but purpose, determination
 - Soul: spiritual; guided by God's revelation; Bible is our map
 - Mind: attitude, thoughts, purpose. Our best
 - Strength: power to do right, reject wrong; cleave to good

Love regulates every relationship

Mk.12:28-30

Mk.12:31

...Ro.13:8

‘A debt owed to everyone,
that can never be discharged’

– Wright

- Our debts include church... work...
government... play... and family

‘Love here commanded is the response of a man in the totality of his being to the prior love of God. The whole man is the object of the divine love and the whole man is thereby claimed by God for himself’ – Cranfield

Four overlapping words: love language

1. Desire:

- Feel passionately / fervently about, have a longing for. Prov.4:6, Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you (wisdom).

2. Natural affection. Love of kindred, esp. parents for children, v. versa. Ro.1:31; 2 Tim.3:3 [unloving; heartless; inhuman].

Four overlapping words: love language

3. Friendship: tender affection

- One who is on intimate terms or in close association with another.
- Aristotle: 'one soul inhabiting two bodies.'
Lk.14:12; 1 Co.16:22
- If one builds marriage only on affection, what happens when moods / feelings change?

Four overlapping words: love language

4. Choice, will: not based merely on feelings

- Mt.5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you
- Feeling for enemy??

Love is not mere sentiment and emotion, but goodness in action.

I. Love

II. Relationships

Husband → Wife

- Eph.5:25, as Christ
- Eph.5:28-29, as self
 - Mt.7:12, Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets
- 1. Pleasant, Col.3:19. Gn.16
- 2. Provide, 1 Tim.5:8
- 3. Prize, understanding, honor, attention, 1 Pt.3:7
 - Court: lit. 'befitting a royal court'

Wife → Husband

- Tit.2:4
- 1. Respect, Ep.5:33
- 2. Romance, 1 Co.7:1-5
- 3. Restraint, Tit.2:5. Prov.27:15-16

Parents ↔ Children

[Titus 2:4]

- Why necessary to encourage love for child?
 - Sometimes they are not lovable?
 - They do bad things...without consequences?
 - 2 Sm.13 – long pattern?
 - Absalom feels forced to discipline brother
 - Drained ... become grouchy / negative
 - Disturbed ... short nights, short fuses
 - Distracted ... making money / networks
 - Divided ... child manipulates parents

Parents ↔ Children

- What is included?
 1. Esteem for authority / parents. Pr.1:8
 2. Education (discipline). Pr.13:24. Ep.6:4
 3. Emphasis on soul. Ep.6:4
- Children must learn...
 1. Respect rights of others. 2 Sm.14:28
 2. Righteous companion. Gn.24
 3. Remember God. Ec.12:1. Mt.6:33