

Chapter 10

RELATIONSHIPS

Personal, Home

It is not possible to claim success and yet have one's home in total disarray. The family unit is the central core of the nation, and once this essential unit within a nation is destroyed or in disorder, the whole nation suffers for it. The same applies to business.

Do not be fooled into thinking that one's business life can be run separately from one's home life, or that one can be successful in business while the home is in turmoil. For a short time, such a deception might seem to work, but it is only short-lived.

It is essential to have peace in the home if we are to be truly successful in business or any other area of our lives.

Many books have been written on marriage relationships and I do not need to add much to them. I do, however, just want to point out a few small principles which I have learned, and which I have never seen emphasised in the typical books on marriage counselling.

Marriage principle 1

A humble approach to one's spouse is an essential ingredient for a happy marriage. Pride stops people from saying sorry to each other. It causes many who seek marriage counselling to seek out the best counsellors available, and problems are imagined to be so highly complex that specially trained psychologists and psychiatrists are called in to help at great expense. Yet, all that is often really necessary is for a person to genuinely repent before his or her spouse and say, "I'm sorry!"

Why is it so hard to say those two little words?! Why must we try to understand the deep roots of a person's being to try to discover why some or other deed was done; delving and digging, and scrutinizing every part of a person's emotional makeup until some obscure, abstract reason eventually surfaces, and then that is blamed for the sin. No! Sin is sin! Let's face it squarely, deal with it, and move on without continually looking back over our shoulders.

I am just a plain person. I try to understand things plainly and simply from the Scriptures – just like a child; and I find that it works! It makes things so much easier! So let us learn early how to say sorry, and after saying sorry, to genuinely try by YHWH's grace, **not to repeat that sin**. I believe that the vast majority of divorces would never have occurred if we humans were not so **proud and stubborn**.

Marriage principle 2

Another principle of equal importance is how we use our tongues – what we allow to pass over our lips. We find big, powerful men who seem to have it all together, but who have absolutely no control over their seemingly insignificant little tongues. I went to boarding school, and I have also done my national service in the army. During these times I have been appalled at the lack of self-restraint of men when they get together.

When I was about fifteen years of age at boarding school, in the midst of much peer pressure, I decided that the use of bad language was entirely without value and only served to weaken the user. I have never used any such language since – not in my entire army experience, or in the worst of crises that I have gone through. I certainly am not the worse off for it. My children grew up hearing good clean uplifting language, and inside I feel clean!

What does the Scripture teach us?

Eph 4:29 *“Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth, but*

only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

What are your words like? What does your family hear from your mouth? Do you minister grace with your mouth? Are your words always kind and gentle? Are they always true? It is common in the world for people to consider the quieter, gentler people to be the weaker ones. I tell you, it takes far more strength to control one's tongue, (giving a blessing instead of a curse) than it takes to let a string of bad words fly out unhindered.

Let your home be filled with uplifting words. It might take a while to train yourself in this. YHWH has promised to help, though. Ask Him to,

Psalm 141:3 *“Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.”*

Marriage principle 3

Early in my marriage, I sought the Lord earnestly for an answer from the Scriptures for a particular problem which my wife and I were facing. The Lord graciously opened my understanding to His plan for a harmonious marriage relationship, and how I should deal with not just this particular problem, but also every other problem which we might ever face.

Follow this Scripture carefully with me and allow the truth of its message to sink right into your spirit.

Eph 5:25 *“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the [ecclesia] and gave Himself up for her;*

26 *“That He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

27 *“That He might present to Himself the [ecclesia] in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing;*

but that she should be holy and blameless.

28

“So (in this manner) husbands ought also to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself.”

Jesus *took the responsibility* of presenting His bride ‘pure and blameless’ before the Father, entirely *upon his own shoulders*. Then He said that we, husbands, should love our wives in the *same manner*.

YHWH shows us here that we, husbands, are entirely **responsible for the well-being of our own wives**. If things are not in order it is **our own fault**. If she is not strong spiritually or if she is suffering depression, or struggling with any area of life, then **we are to blame**.

We should **never** put the blame for any disorder in the home onto her shoulders. If I am a man, then I should **carry the responsibility like a man**.

What an awesome responsibility, and also what a precious privilege and challenge YHWH has set before us men. Imagine one day I will be presenting my wife before the Lord in all her beauty, pure and holy and blameless. What a wonderful joy will be mine on that day? I shall have accomplished my greatest and lifelong calling.

Here is a poem I wrote about my dear wife:

When before that pure white throne
I stand, my spouse to present
What will she look like – all haggard and torn?
With scars her life so rent?

Or will I rather with joy and pride
Stand back as He examines thee
See His smile of approval, and say, ‘Thank you Lord
For giving her to me’

How did Jesus cleanse His ‘*bride*’?

Eph 5:26 “... *by the washing of water with the word*”

If I am to ‘*cleanse*’ my dear wife, then it will be in the same manner. Where there is sin or impurity or fear or anything that is not good; my **words** of kindness and love and forgiveness should be there; **ever encouraging**, ever **lifting**, ever **strengthening** her; giving her **dignity** and **honour**, making her know that I really do believe deep down in my heart that there is just **no-one in the whole world like her**.

You might say,

“That’s impossible! If you only knew my wife!”

My answer is simple. If your wife is not like that, then it is because you have not built her into that – **the blame lies with you, sir! Be man enough** to take your responsibility in the home. Be strong enough to answer back in love instead of that sarcastic, cutting remark. Prove yourself entirely trustworthy by refusing to look at the bodies of other women to lust after them. Let your desire be for **your wife only**.

Make it your life's ambition to present your wife to the Lord one day, in magnificent inner beauty and splendour, pure and holy at your side. If you do this, your home will have **continual peace**.

Mind you, this is not always easy. The best road never is. It will mean that you will often have to **swallow your pride**. It will mean taking the financial responsibility of the home onto your own shoulders and making wise decisions. You will need to have your wits about you all the time to watch for those moments of weakness in your spouse, so that you can be an encouragement to her and lift her up when she is down. In a moment of unreasonableness, you must be the strong one to gently but firmly make good decisions and stick by them.

Make every decision according to principles and not according to the pressing need of the moment. Stick by your wife through thick and thin. Support her, **even behind her back**. Stand together as a whole family. Be a peacemaker in your home so that you can go to work in the morning feeling strong, and come home after a hard day's work to a haven of rest in a loving, caring atmosphere of peace. "*Heaven?*" you may ask. No, not quite - just one step away!

The second part of Chapter 10 to follow –

“RELATIONSHIPS

Staff and labour”