

BGM BIBLE COLLEGE

LECTURE NO 06

Marriage: The Foundation of Godly Generations

Marriage, according to Holy Scripture, as described in the Book of Proverbs, is the foundation for the raising of godly children who possess upright character. Marriage is not merely the union of a man and a woman; it is the beginning of a godly heritage. For the children become the reflection of the hidden things within the marriage—what is lacking between husband and wife shall also be lacking in their offspring.

The Divine Institution of Marriage

When God instituted marriage, He purposed it to be *inviolable* and *unbreakable*—a covenant between *one man and one woman*. These two qualities—permanence and purity—have done more to advance civilization than any other human institution. Therefore, we must build upon that sacred foundation. The Book of Proverbs provided wisdom for this very cause, that the blessings of the parents might pass unto their children.

The Sins of the Fathers

Yet oftentimes even godly parents, who believe and trust in the Lord, do pass on wrong behaviours to their children. The iniquities of the fathers are visited upon the third and fourth generations. Abraham, the man of faith, once allowed fear to rule his heart and said that his wife Sarah was his sister. A generation later, Isaac did likewise, bringing trouble upon his household. Jacob, whose name meant “deceiver,” tricked his father for the birth right, and was himself deceived by his father-in-law, Laban. Thus, though they were the people of God, their families were disordered and filled with strife, jealousy, and deceit.

The Influence of Marriage upon Children

the relationship between a husband and wife—their treatment of one another, their words and their deeds—shaped the character of their children. What is practiced within the home shall be carried into the generations to come. Do ye desire a blessed marriage and blessed children? It beginneth in the home. Many pastors and missionaries labour to save souls abroad, yet lose their own spouses and children at home.

Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs hath divine counsel for both husband and wife, that they may walk in godliness and raise their children aright. Let us, therefore, begin with the man, for men are called to be the initiators and leaders.

The Calling of the Man: To Find a Wife

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” (Proverbs 18:22)

Also it is written, *“A virtuous woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies.”* (Proverbs 31:10)

And again, *“Houses and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:14)*

A man may be drawn by the beauty of a woman, but beauty is fleeting. The true worth of a wife lieth in her heart. Dr. Mark said, “I did not marry my wife because she was the most beautiful in appearance, but because of her heart—her love for the Lord Jesus Christ, who was first in her life. Her name is Patricia, meaning noble, and her character was indeed noble.”

The Husband’s Desire: To Be a Man of Integrity

He continued, “When I was but two and twenty years old, I read the Scriptures and desired to be the kind of husband the Bible called me to be.”

“The just man walked in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.” (Proverbs 20:7)
Integrity—righteousness of character—standeth above all other virtues. To be a man of integrity is to keep one’s word. What a man hath spoken, that he must perform. When he saith in marriage, *“I do,”* it meaneth that he will love his wife in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, whether she please or displease him.

Children Learn by Example

Children learn more by what they see than by what they hear. If a father speaketh promises but performed them not—saying, “I will spend time with thee,” yet never doing so—the child learned hypocrisy. Dr. Mark shared that his own grandfather was an alcoholic. But his father, seeing the destruction that drink had brought, determined never to follow that path. Yet, when children behold hypocrisy in their parents, they too often become the same. For it is a truth that abused or neglected children often become abusers or neglectful parents themselves?

The Fear of the Lord: The Beginning of Wisdom

Integrity rested upon another virtue: *the fear of the Lord*.

“Depart from the foolish man, when thou perceives not in him the lips of knowledge.”
(Proverbs 14:7)

“In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.”
(Proverbs 14:26)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Such a man shall lead his children to the house of God. He will not merely send them with their mother, but will go with them. Fathers who take their children to church shall find, when those children are grown, that they too remain in the church.

A Heritage of Godly Men

Dr. Mark concluded, saying, “I thank God that in my country there are many godly men, faithful through generations, raising up godly sons to follow in their steps.”

The Heritage of Godly Men

The godly men of former generations took their sons with them unto the house of the Lord. And now, from among those same generations, godly men are raising godly sons. They walk together in the fear of the Lord and in the nurture of His Word.

Family Prayer and Daily Devotion

Pray with thy children. Before ye partake of thy meals, gather together and offer thanksgiving unto God. At night, before thou layest down to rest, read unto thy children the Scriptures and the stories of the Bible. Answer their questions with patience that they may learn to love the

truth. Be unto them an example of what God the Father is like—gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Raising a Godly Leader

Such a child shall grow to be the head of his household. He shall lead his family in righteousness, and he shall cover his wife with protection, love, and honour.

The Man of Self-Control

A godly man must also rule his spirit. *“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalted folly.” (Proverbs 14:29)*

Children must learn to govern their emotions, for unto them every small matter seemed great. Therefore, if their father be shouting and unable to control his temper, what doth he teach his child, who is striving within himself to learn self-control?

Discipline and Instruction in the Lord

External rules are needful, that children may internalize them through the practice of self-discipline. For it is written, *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15)*

In our home, we had three simple rules, which we repeated oft unto our children, that they might sink into their hearts:

1. No fussing.
2. No fighting.
3. Listen and obey.

When they broke a rule, we asked, “Which rule hast thou broken?” And they would answer, “I was fussing,” or, “I was fighting,” or, “I was not listening.” After the third warning came correction, that foolishness might be driven far from them.

Yet as a father, I myself was bound to model those same virtues—to refrain from stubbornness, from contention, and to hearken unto the Word of God.

Unity and Agreement in Marriage

Mother and father must not argue before their children. Early in our marriage, my wife and I established what we called *“sofa time.”* We would sit together upon the couch and discuss our matters—not for five minutes, nor ten, but for half an hour, forty minutes, or even an hour—until we were of one heart and one accord.

For harmony doth not come swiftly; it required time and humility. My wife and I are very different—different in personality, in likes and dislikes. Yet those differences became our strength, for they brought balance and blessing into our home.

Husband, if thou learnest that thy wife bringeth value because she is different from thee, thou art a wise man indeed.

Prayer between Husband and Wife

each morning we begin our day with prayer. I ask her, “Patricia, what can I pray for thee today?” She then shared not only her prayer request, but also her feelings and burdens. For every woman hath a deep need to be understood. I may not agree in all things, yet I must

strive to understand. Likewise, I share my heart with her. And thus two lives, joined by God, begin to blend as one—growing stronger, wiser, and more united.

The Industrious Man

a good husband and a good father is a diligent man. *“He becomes poor that dealt with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent make rich.” (Proverbs 10:4)*

He beareth responsibility before his children and becomes an example of steadfastness. He teaches the value of work and the blessing of labour.

The Man Who Speaketh Wisely

“A soft answer turned away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)

The Book of Proverbs speaketh much of the power of the tongue—for in it are life and death. A wise husband used his words to build up his wife, not to tear her down with bitterness or harsh criticism. His speech is seasoned with grace, for gentle words bring healing.

The Man Who Avoided Foolishness

“He that walked with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” (Proverbs 13:20)

A godly man chooses wise company. He no longer runneth with the boys nor spendeth his strength upon vanities. He seeketh not his pleasure in games or idle sport to the neglect of his wife and children. His heart is with his home.

The Man Who Loves His Wife faithfully

finally, a wise and godly man is faithful to his wife. *“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.” (Proverbs 5:18)*

Faithfulness is a sacred bond. The man who is unfaithful to his wife is also unfaithful to his children, for he betrayed not only the covenant of marriage but the very souls of those he hath brought into the world.

“And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?” (Proverbs 5:20)

Let fidelity be the mark of thy manhood, for to love thy wife faithfully is to honour God Himself.

Faithfulness between Husband and Wife

My father and my mother were faithful unto one another. They were married as virgins; they were pure when they came together. They passed on unto me, their son, that same virtue of chastity. Likewise, my wife and her family walked in purity before the Lord.

A Virtuous and God-Fearing Wife

The Book of Proverbs speaketh of the godly wife, saying, *“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feared the LORD, she shall be praised.” (Proverbs 31:30)*. My wife is fearless before men, yet she feared the Lord and honoured His Name. When she doeth wrong, she humbled herself and saith, *“I am sorry.”* Thus hath she left a godly example for our children, for which I give thanks unto God.

Parental Humility and the Shaping of Children’s Hearts

none of my children have turned against God because of hypocrisy. When a father or a mother doeth amiss, there is no shame in confessing it unto their children and saying,

“Forgive me, for I erred.” Thou shalt be astonished to behold how such humility shape the hearts of the young, teaching them truth and tenderness.

A Wise and Discerning Woman

it is written, *“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucked it down with her hands.”* (Proverbs 14:1). A godly woman is wise and discerning. She knoweth how to judge between good and evil and to guide her house aright.

The Error of Worldly Freedom

In the days of my youth, there arose in America a movement called “Women’s Liberation,” which sought to free women from every restraint of society. Yet instead of true liberty, it brought forth confusion and sorrow. Divorce became common, and fornication before marriage increased. The so-called “sexual revolution” of the 1960s brought heavier burdens upon women, for many were left to raise children alone. Thus was revealed the folly of forsaking the Word of God.

The Industrious and Resourceful Wife

a virtuous woman, as written in Proverbs 31:10–27, is diligent and hardworking. She is not a busybody going from house to house gossiping; neither doth she meddle in the matters of others. She looked well to the ways of her household. She is resourceful, industrious, and not slothful in labour.

The Woman Who Speaketh with Kindness

Another mark of a virtuous woman is this: *“She opened her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”* (Proverbs 31:26). When she speaketh gently and wisely, her children learn to speak with respect and to feel with compassion. This is strength, not weakness.

A Woman of Strong Character

it is written, *“She girded her loins with strength, and strengthened her arms.”* (Proverbs 31:17). She is resilient and steadfast. Though there be trials and disappointments, yet she pressed onward with courage. She is dependable; if she saith she will do a thing, she performed it. Her children learn steadfastness by beholding their mother’s strength.

A Wife Who Honoured Her Husband

The Scripture saith, *“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”* (Proverbs 31:11–12). It is one of the greatest needs of a man—to feel that his wife respected him. Such honour strengthened the bond of marriage and bringeth peace within the home.

A Woman Who Guarded Her Tongue

again, it is written, *“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.”* (Proverbs 21:9). A contentious wife is as a continual dripping that vexed the soul. A man seeketh peace within his house, for his home is his fortress. The Book of Proverbs warned both men and women to cease from strife, for it is as the letting out of water—once loosed, it is hard to restrain.

The Harm of Parental Strife Before Children

I once heard the sorrow of a young man who, when he was a boy, would sit in the back seat of the car while his parents strove one with another. The child wept and prayed, *“O God,*

make them stop.” Such contention wounded his heart deeply. Parents must remember that their quarrels pierce the hearts of their little ones.

Discipline in Love and Godliness

the Holy Scriptures speak much of the discipline of children. When my wife and I were young parents, we studied a book called *“Growing Kids God’s Way.”* It was wholly based on the Book of Proverbs and taught us to discipline with wisdom. As my mother used to say, “God made a place upon the body where, if thou apply the rod rightly, a child will learn to listen.” But not with the hand, and never upon the face. The rod of correction is for the back, not for cruelty but for love. *“He that spare his rod hated his son: but he that loved him chastened him betimes.” (Proverbs 13:24).*

The Fruit of Early Discipline

Early correction delivered a child from destruction. It is written, *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” (Proverbs 29:15).* Thus, both rod and reproof are needful—discipline and instruction together. Even little children discern their parents’ hearts and may play one against the other; therefore, father and mother must be united in discipline if peace is to dwell in their home.

Peace through Godly Order

the Word declared, *“Correct thy son, and he shall give the rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.” (Proverbs 29:17).* Discipline bringeth peace, not strife, when done in love.

Studying the Hearts of Children

we are called to study our children—to discern what moved them, what inclined their heart. *“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.” (Proverbs 20:11).* We must help shape their character, strengthen their weaknesses, and encourage their strengths. When they do well, reward them and bless them: *“Thou hast done well, my child.”*

The Soil of a Godly Marriage

a godly marriage is like good soil wherein godly children grow. The only treasure we shall take to Heaven with us are souls—and foremost among them, our own children. For the Lord seeketh a godly seed **(Malachi 2:15).**

