

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Matthew 19:4-6 “And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Quote: Married “children” must balance the command to leave their parents and cleave to their spouse with the command to honor their parents.

If you are reading this as a single adult, let me offer one critical piece of advice when it comes to marriage. Get pre-marital counseling from a pastor who will convey to you the seriousness of the one-flesh relationship into which you are about to enter.¹ Next to placing your trust exclusively and entirely in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, getting married is the most important decision that you will ever make. God’s intention is that marriage be an irreversible commitment. There are some essential biblical truths that will make your marriage a wonderful experience of growth and giving, and not an experiment in “playing house!” Get a biblical “game plan” before you promise, “I do!”

A word for young married couples. While obedience to your parents becomes a thing of the past when you leave the home, honoring them does not.² Your own home must indeed take priority; however, don’t rob yourself of God’s blessing that comes through doing right by both sets of parents in cooperation with siblings who may be involved. And remember that this is a new chapter of life for your parents as well!

For most newly weds, charting the course of “leaving home,” maintaining a healthy relationship with both sets of parents, and facing the realities of life-after-the-honeymoon is a daunting challenge. Independence and starting your own home is not synonymous with changing everything about your upbringing! There are some things that you were taught that are worth hanging on to and teaching to your children. A wholesale “I’m-going-to-do-it-my-way” approach is not always the

best way for novices in any endeavor. Sure your parents could have done some things better. One day you will look back and have to admit the same truth about yourself! Be wise enough to embrace and apply the things that they did right, and humble enough to make changes prayerfully and carefully. Seek to glorify God first and foremost when making decisions involving church choice and attendance, entertainment, priorities, and interaction with your parents and in-laws.

If and when God blesses you with children, do not let parenting them threaten to take precedence over your primary role as a spouse. Your relationship with Christ must take first priority and your covenant of companionship must remain second. All too often marriages fracture when children graduate out of the home because they were the common thread that “held things together” instead of growing love for each other. Far from these marriages getting better, couples get bitter when the center of attention (kids) has been removed. A warning for the young mom who allows being a mother to adversely compete with her primary role as a wife—the damage that this mindset will cause comes slowly over time, but it will creep up on you before you know it! A warning for young fathers—the initial danger that can threaten your primary role as a husband is work for the purpose of giving things to your family or promoting your career. Be a provider without being a “stranger!” A warning to both—wrong priorities when it comes to your spouse are the soil in which adultery finds its ugly, destructive, life-ruining root.

Above all, pray for God’s grace to be evident in your daily struggle to balance your roles and to fulfill them to the best of your ability. I offer the above as one who praises God for His grace in my own family in spite of shortcomings on my part! Invest in your loved ones God’s way. Make meeting the needs of your spouse and your children the major part of serving the Lord.

Family: Married Children and Parents

¹ IMPACT 191 Good resources: [Preparing for Marriage God's Way](#) [Wayne MacK] [Tying the Knot: A Premarital Guide to a Strong and Lasting Marriage](#) [Rob Green] [When Sinners Say I Do: Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage](#) [Dave Harvey] ² Matt. 15:4; 19:19; Eph.6:2; 1 Tim.5:4, 8, 16