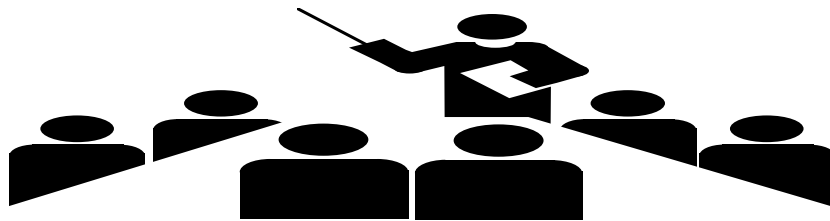


BIBLE STUDY SERIES



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Strengthening the Family

BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

Strengthening the Family

Lesson #1: Faithfulness in Christian Marriage

Scripture: Malachi 2: 10-16; Genesis 2:18-25

Proposition: A strong and healthy marriage is the foundation of a strong and healthy family.

I. Our Faithfulness in Marrying a Christian Partner (Mal. 2:10-12; 2 Cor. 6:14)

- A. To marry an unbeliever is to violate a sacred covenant. (Mal. 2:10)
- B. To marry an unbeliever is to profane a holy institution. (Mal. 2:11)
- C. To marry an unbeliever is to incur God's punishment. (Mal. 2:12)

II. Our Faithfulness in Honoring Our Marriage Vows (Mal. 2:13-16)

- A. Disloyalty to our spouse negatively affects our fellowship with God. (Mal. 2:13-14)
- B. Unfaithfulness to our spouse causes a break of a sacred marriage bond. (Mal 2:15)
- C. Faithfulness to our spouse is a major part of raising godly offspring. (Mal 2:15)
- D. Loyalty to our spouse will prevent divorce, which God hates. (Mal. 2:16)

III. Our Faithfulness in Intimacy and Sexuality

- A. Virginity: Respecting God's Sacred Gift
- B. Chastity: Building a Sacred Trust
- C. Fidelity: Honoring a Sacred Commitment (Gen. 2:18-25)
 - 1. Leaving
 - a. Prioritizing the marital relationship [family, friends, job, etc.]
 - b. Forsaking all others (1 Cor. 6:13-18)
 - c. Keeping thee only unto him or her
 - 2. Cleaving
 - a. Appreciating each other's unique abilities
 - 1) The husband's ability to sow seeds (Gen. 4:1)
 - 2) The wife's ability to receive, multiply, and give back more (Gen. 3:20; 4:1)
 - b. Meeting each other's special needs
 - 1) The husband's need for absolute respect (Eph. 5:22-24, 33)
 - 2) The wife's need for unconditional love (Eph. 5:25-29, 33)
 - c. Seeking each other's true happiness
 - 1) Seeking to please each other in life (1 Cor. 7:32-34)
 - 2) Seeking to please each other in love-making (1 Cor. 7:3-5)
- D. Consummation: Ratifying the Sacred Covenant
- E. Sexual Intercourse: Fulfilling God's Sacred Purposes
 - 1. The Privilege of Procreation (Gen. 1:26-28)
 - 2. The Beauty of Bonding (Gen. 2:18-25)
 - a. Spiritual bonding (becoming one in Christ)
 - b. Mental, emotional, and volitional bonding (becoming soul mates)
 - c. Physical bonding (becoming meaningful sex partners)
 - 3. The Satisfaction of Passionate Love-Making (Prov. 5:19)

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Lesson #2: Prudence in Christian Communication

Scripture: Luke 6:45; Ephesians 4:26-32

Proposition: Proper communication is necessary for building a strong family unit.

I. Foundational Affirmations

- A. The quality of our *lives* is determined by the quality of our *relationships*. (Luke 12:15)
- B. The quality of our *relationships* is determined by the quality of our *communication*.
- C. The quality of our *communication* is determined by the condition of our *hearts*. (Lk.6:45)

II. The Power of Relationships

- A. In our *families of origin* we establish self-esteem, develop self-image, and learn to communicate. (Genesis 37:3-11)
- B. In our other *significant relationships* our self-image is reinforced and our communication habits are further developed. (Genesis 39-41)
- C. In our *new families* our self-image and communication habits find their fullest, most intense expression; are transmitted to others; and most affect others. (Genesis 49)

III. The Dynamics of Communication

- A. Communication is the *expression* of our feelings, thoughts, ideas, desires, and intentions.
- B. Communication can be verbal, but more than 70 % of our communication is *nonverbal*.
- C. Communication is the *test* of our mental, emotional, and spiritual *wellbeing*. (Mt. 12:33-37)
 - 1. *Corrupt* communication indicates emotional/spiritual illness or injury. (Eph. 4:29)
 - 2. *Gracious* communication indicates emotional and spiritual wellbeing. (Eph. 4:15, 29)

IV. The Way to Healing

- A. Healing is the process that moves us from illness and injury to wholeness and wellbeing.
- B. *Forgiveness* is the secret of emotional, spiritual, and even physical healing. (Eph. 4:26-32)
 - 1. We must *acknowledge our anger* toward those who have hurt us.
 - 2. We must *forgive* those who have hurt us.
 - 3. We must *release* all of our anger, bitterness, malice, etc.
 - 4. We must *receive God healing*.
 - 5. We must *trust God* to make things right.
- D. Healing makes possible *healthy communication*.
- E. Healthy communication makes possible *healthy relationships*.
- F. Healthy relationships make possible *fulfilling lives*.

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Strengthening the Family

Lesson #3: Through Diligence in Christian Nurture

Scripture: Luke 6:45; Ephesians 4:26-32

Proposition: Meeting the most basic needs of children is essential to building a strong family.

I. Meeting our children's relational needs [bolstering them]

- A. A good name [identity]: *the need to know who they are* (Pr. 2:1, Gen.4::1-6)
- B. A rich heritage [background]: *the need to know from whence they've come* (Gen. 48:3,4)
- C. A worthy inheritance [connection]: *the need to pass something on* (Gen. 48:5,6)

II. Meeting our children's spiritual needs [blessing them]

- A. Spiritual training: the need to be put on the right track (Pr. 22:6)
- B. Christian instruction: the need to be taught the fear and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
- C. Godly examples: the need for a human role-model (2 Tim. 1:5)

III. Meeting our children's emotional needs [building them]

- A. Giving them *attention*: instilling a sense of importance [violation: neglect]
- B. Giving them *affection*: instilling a sense of love [violation: abuse]
- C. Giving them *acceptance*: instilling a sense of belonging [violation: rejection]
- D. Giving them *affirmation*: instilling a sense of significance [violation: mocking]
- E. Giving them *accountability*: instilling a sense of responsibility [violation: permissiveness]