

LESSON 12: AN UNNATURAL ARRANGEMENT?

Intro:

Sherlock to Captain Gregson: “Detection is a calling not a job. It hardly leaves on time left over to sustain the elaborate ruse of marriage. ... There are other ways to describe it: An unnatural arrangement which forces its participants into an unhealthy monogamy. An accretion of petty fights and resentful compromises which like Chinese water torture slowly transforms both parties into howling, highly neurotic forms of their former selves.”⁵

BIG IDEA: Jesus protects marriage through _____, _____ and _____.

¹⁰To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹(but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹²To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? **1 Corinthians 7**

Destruction Thru Over-Spiritualization

- The Corinthian church was quite _____ and filled with spiritual _____.
- Some were rejecting the gifts of _____ and _____, authority, ...
- In Corinth, a marriage didn't require _____ action: no lawyers, no hearing.
- Christians were divorcing one another. One reason was _____-spirituality.
- Some women may have rejected the marriage _____ as “_____.”
- **Already/Not Yet** (Regen. Just. Adoption, Sanctification, indwelling/Glorification)
- _____-realized Eschatology: _____ what we already have in Christ.
- _____-realized Eschatology: _____ what we already have in Christ.

Lie #1: Marriage is too Earthly

- In Mt. 22, Jesus is approached by the _____ who test Him.
- They use the law of _____ marriage to mock the resurrection: whose wife is she?
- His response: you don't know the _____ or the _____ of God.
- The _____ was revealed in Scripture, and rooted in the power of God.

⁵ *Elementary*, episode 31, “An Unnatural Arrangement”.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- Resurrected people are like _____ when it comes to marriage: no giving in marriage.
- In the over-realized eschatology, _____ is not for Christians in this _____.
- The NT continually honors marriage and calls us to honor marriage.
- “*Not I but the Lord*” refers to _____. Application of _____ !
- Christians married to other _____ are to remain married.
- Separation was not necessarily cause for _____.
- Verse 10: she should not _____. Verse 11: he should not _____ her .
- Separation: either _____ unmarried or be _____ with one another.

Lie #2: I Can’t Forgive THAT Sin

- Divorce is often brought about by hard _____ that have not been _____.
- There is usually one _____ that breaks the camel’s _____.
- The _____ of Christ pardons us of every sin but one. We can forgive any sin!
- United to _____, we have the spiritual _____ necessary to forgive their debt.
- Yes, some sins are more _____ than others but all must be _____.
- In some cases, we are not required to rebuild _____, but are required to _____.

Jesus Makes Them Pure

- These were not _____ marriages, but one spouse _____ after marriage.
- In the OT, _____ - _____ marriages were not permitted for Israel.
- Before an Israelite married a foreigner, that foreigner was supposed to _____.
- Therefore, this situation was not covered in the OT so Paul says “*I, not the Lord*”.
- He is _____ apostolic _____ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Advocating _____, they are to remain together as long as both are willing.

Lie #3 My Spouse Contaminates the Marriage, and Me

- They failed to remember they had a better _____ with better _____.
- In OT, touching an _____ object made you _____ unclean.
- Since Gentiles were ceremonially unclean, this presented a problem for marriage.
- The believing spouse, and any children, would be ceremonially unclean.
- The worldly solution of _____ is one that doesn’t understand the _____ of God.
- When _____ touched unclean items or people they became _____.
- Christ makes us pure, ceremonially clean and ‘*holy*’ or ‘ _____ - _____’.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- This doesn't mean that the spouse or children are _____.
- The children are welcome in the _____ covenant _____.
- Jesus sets our families apart, making them pure, and works in them by the _____.

Jesus Provides Peace

- If the unbelieving spouse _____ to live with the follower of Christ it is different.
- In that day, the economic state of women was more _____. Needed a _____!
- It would therefore be very difficult to let a husband go. Possible idolatry (_____).

Lie #4: Only I Can Save My Spouse

- Remember there were _____ in the Church of Corinth.
- They probably wanted their spouse to come to _____ too. _____ works in us too.
- They probably _____ the conflict in their attempts to _____ the marriage.
- We are called to be _____, as much as it depends on us.
- Unbelievers don't possess the spiritual _____ to _____ some conflicts.
- Sometimes making peace means letting them _____. This time the follower is _____.
- They are not _____ by the marriage covenant, but may _____ "*in the Lord.*"
- Letting them go, we entrust them into God's hands rejecting our _____ - _____.
- In some cases, a _____ Christian may _____ their spouse.
- When approached about reconciliation, it may become clear they aren't _____.
- They may be _____ and the other party will be free to _____.

Conclusion: