**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Family Faithfulness |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 19:1-9 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2132 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. It is very sad that in today’s world we have what is sometimes called “throw-away marriages.”
      1. Somehow, it just doesn’t work out, and they throw it away.
      2. It has been said that some couples get married as an ideal, then the ideal turns into an ordeal, and then they look for a new deal.
   2. There was once a time in America when “traditional” families were the norm.
      1. Mothers took care of the home.
      2. Fathers went off to work.
      3. The family ate their meals together.
      4. They went to church together.
   3. The typical family in America is much different today.
      1. In the typical family, both husband and wife work.
      2. Many households today are single-parent households.
         1. A lot of this is caused by divorce.
            1. Divorce can have a devastating effect on children.
            2. Broken homes produce broken lives which produce broken homes which produce broken lives.
            3. God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:16

* + 1. We’re told today that sex between unmarried couples is normal and acceptable.
    2. We’re told that homosexuality is an alternate lifestyle.
    3. We’re told that unmarried motherhood has no shame to it.
    4. We’re told that marriage is not sacred because nothing is sacred.
    5. The chief code in America today is, “Don’t be judgmental.”
  1. Matthew 19:1-9
     1. Jesus expects us to read the Bible.
     2. One of the most damning things that the devil has done is to blur the distinctions between male and female.
  2. We need family faithfulness today.

1. marriage is made by heaven (Matthew 19:4-5)
   1. Marriage did not come from sociology or evolution; and it is not some cultural innovation.
      1. Marriage is God’s plan.
   2. In Matthew 19:5, God gives us the guide to building a home.
      1. Leave:
         1. This speaks of the priority of marriage.
            1. Matthew 19:5

We’re to leave father and mother.

* + - 1. As a parent, your task is to get your children ready to leave the nest.
         1. Deuteronomy 32:11

As an eagle must teach the eaglet to fly, so must parents teach their children to leave the nest.

* + - * 1. Parents have the responsibility to work themselves out of a job.

Parents are successful when their children no longer need them.

This is against our nature since we have a need to be needed.

* + - * 1. It is important to remember that even though parents work themselves out of a job, they do not work themselves out of a relationship.

As you let your children go when the time is right, they will come back as friends.

* + - 1. Marriage in physical relationships is the supreme commitment.
         1. We are to honor our parents, but our parents are not our supreme commitment.
         2. We are to love our children, but our children are not our supreme commitment.

Mate to mate is a stronger commitment than children to parents and parents to children.

* + - * 1. Business is not our supreme commitment.
    1. Cleave:
       1. This speaks of the permanence of marriage.
          1. Matthew 19:5

The word “cleave” in this passage means “to weld” or “to glue.”

* + - 1. Marriage is a lifetime contract, not an optional one.
         1. A couple that considers divorce as an option will be a family with a great potential for disintegration.
         2. Those who do not consider divorce as an option will be a family who will stay together.

Families who stick it out and those who don’t have basically the same kinds of problems.

There are no problems too big to solve, just people too small to solve them.

When couples learn to attack the problem rather than one another, then they can learn to work it out.

* + 1. One flesh:
       1. This is the purpose of marriage.
          1. Matthew 19:5

This speaks of more than sexual union.

When a person marries, he or she marries a whole person: body, soul and spirit.

* + - 1. In marriage, a person is no longer an individual, but they become one flesh.
         1. God’s arithmetic is one plus one equals one.
         2. Marriage is a romance in which both the hero and the heroine die in the first chapter, and a new person comes into being.

That new person is “one flesh.”

* + - 1. The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh physically.
         1. Sex is not dirty or impure; it is a gift of God.
         2. We see in Scripture that God is not trying to keep us from sex; He is trying to keep sex for us.

Exodus 20:14

1 Corinthians 6:18

Hebrews 13:4

Since it is God’s gift, He has put some high walls to protect it and preserve it.

* + - * 1. This is God’s gift so that a husband and wife can know one another in the most intimate of relationships.
        2. The devil has tried to take that which is wonderful and beautiful and trivialize it.
      1. The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh emotionally.
         1. Not only should a husband and wife be sweethearts, but they should also be friends.
      2. The purpose of marriage is to be one flesh spiritually.
         1. A husband and wife should both love the Lord.

They are members of the same body: His body.

1. marriage can be marred by hell (matthew 19:1-3, 7-9)
   1. God desires that marriage be a permanent union.
   2. The only reason that Jesus allowed divorce was for immorality (fornication).
      1. Matthew 5:31-32
         1. Moses permitted divorce but never commanded divorce.
         2. A marriage may be broken by the continual marital unfaithfulness of one of the partners.
         3. “Fornication” comes from the Greek word “porneia” which means “sexual impurity.”
      2. Even when a husband or wife has been unfaithful, reconciliation and forgiveness are called for to put the family back together and to restore.
         1. Hosea 1
            1. Hosea’s wife, Gomer, became a prostitute.
            2. Hosea bought her from the slave market, restored her, forgave her and took her back as his wife.
      3. Sometimes it isn’t possible; but if possible, the marriage relationship can be restored with forgiveness and grace.
   3. We have many trivial excuses for divorce in today’s world.
      1. Some say that the love has gone out of their marriage.
         1. Ephesians 5:25
            1. This is not a suggestion but a command for husbands to love their wives.
            2. Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God to carry it out.
         2. Titus 2:4
            1. Women are to love their husbands.
         3. We are commanded to love.
      2. Part of the problem is that the world’s definition of love is not the Bible’s definition of love.
         1. Many people have an emotional, conditional love.
            1. Their definition of love is based on attractiveness.

A person who is loved this way is going to feel very insecure.

* + - * 1. They love because of what they can get out of it.
      1. Ephesians 5:25
         1. In this passage, the word for “love” is “agape.”

This is the kind of love that Jesus Christ has for the church.

It is a non-conditional love.

God loves us unconditionally.

This is the way spouses are to love one another.

* + - 1. When spouses love with conditional love:
         1. They become fearful.

They think that they have to perform in order to keep their spouse.

They think that they have to keep the house a certain way, look a certain way or lose a certain number of pounds, or else they may lose their spouse.

* + - * 1. When a divorce comes, they then feel guilty.

They think that somehow, they weren’t good enough.

* + - * 1. That guilt then turns to anger.

They feel that they were used and are now discarded.

* + - * 1. That anger then turns to bitterness.
      1. When spouses love each other unconditionally as the Bible teaches:
         1. Rather than fear, there’s peace.
         2. Rather than guilt, there’s security.
         3. Rather than bitterness, there’s joy.
  1. We must learn to love as Jesus loved, and that’s why it takes Christ to make a marriage.
     1. Agape love is not a human product.
        1. Romans 5:5
     2. When we learn to love unconditionally, we don’t have to listen to the devil’s lies.
        1. Many people think that love is some sort of emotional experience.
  2. The problem in marriage is that we’re trying to make somebody else satisfy and meet our needs.
     1. It is basically selfish.
     2. There is nothing wrong with romantic love, but romantic love is not enough.

1. marriage is marked by hope
   1. God gives you hope in your home.
      1. Whatever the situation – if you’ve been divorced, deserted, if your home seems to be a living nightmare – God gives hope.
   2. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.
      1. You are not a second-class citizen if you have been divorced.
      2. God’s grace is available.
      3. Forgiveness is always available.
      4. Romans 8:1
      5. 1 John 1:7
      6. Isaiah 1:18
   3. John 8:1-11
      1. God used the woman at the well mightily; she led the city of Samaria to Christ.
      2. God does not hold grudges.
   4. 1 Corinthian 6:9-11
      1. If the sins mentioned in this passage comprise the lifestyle that you embrace, then you need to be saved.
      2. If you are in Christ Jesus, then you are a new creature.
         1. No matter what has happened in the past, marriages that are made in Heaven and marred by Hell are marked by hope.
   5. God is a God of grace and forgiveness.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. If you are married, make certain that Christ is the head of your home.
      1. If your marriage is not a Christian marriage, then give your hearts to Jesus Christ today.
   2. If you are married, continue to feed your love day by day.
      1. Don’t take it for granted.
   3. If you are divorced, then ask God for forgiveness if it was your fault.
   4. If you were divorced because of someone else’s wrongdoing, then forgive in your heart and don’t let bitterness take hold.
   5. Your godly home may be perhaps the greatest testimony you’ll have in this world.
   6. If you are unmarried, then marry only in the Lord and build a Christian home.
   7. A home is the sweetest place on Earth, the nearest place to Heaven, and it’s the only part of the Garden of Eden that we have left.
   8. The first step in building a Christian home is to know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
      1. Are you saved?
   9. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   10. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
       1. Romans 3:23
       2. Romans 10:9-10
       3. Romans 10:13
       4. Acts 16:31
       5. John 3:16