

This morning, we'll continue our discussion about lifework and planning in the context of the family through the family of families.

Why did we decide to focus on planning this retreat?

1. This last year, we finished up our study in Acts, The First Principles and now we're working our way through Proverbs. There were a lot of scriptural ideas, truths and principals that we're thrown our way.
 - a. We looked at God's desire, design and plan for
 - i. Families – marriage and children
 - ii. Church and how God's desire is for the church to demonstrate God's wisdom to a watching world. God wants the gospel message to transform the church and through the church transform people's lives locally and globally.
 - iii. Work – we looked at the lifework concept which included our paid work
 - iv. community – the lifework principle also deals with our individual and corporate involvement in the community through genuine relationships and by meeting needs in the community
 - v. our finances – God wants us to be generous with our finances and to align our hearts and minds with his plans and purposes, even through our giving.
 - b. In order to carry out God's desires, design and plan, we need to integrate God's desires, design and plans into our lives through prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit and planning. God will be faithful to us as we do our part in aligning our plans and purposes with God's plans and purposes.
 - c. Let's let God's desires, design and plan really captivate us

Goals – scripture

Family:

1. The family is a committed relationship between a man and a woman that God created.
2. Husbands
 - a. Lead
 - i. Ephesians 5:25-33
 - ii. **25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own**

flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- iii. In the Ephesians 5 passage, from the husband’s perspective and fro a design standpoint, what is God’s desire and plan for structure of a marriage.
 1. The husband is to lead his wife. So the goal is for husband’s to lead their wife.
 2. If you were to break down the areas that husbands are to lead in, what would those categories be?
 - a. Spiritual – that He might sanctify and cleanse here with the washing of water by the word. In our first principles study we talked about the developmental nature of the leadership that husbands are to have towards their wife. Christ’s leadership sanctifies the church and
 - b. The spiritual realm encompasses everything, spiritual, physical, emotional, financial, everything.
 3. I would venture to guess that most men in the church at large understand God’s design and intention for the man leading the marriage. The question is why don’t men lead?
 - a. Men don’t know how
 - i. Don’t have a good model of leadership for them to draw from
 - ii. Circumstances are difficult.
 - b. Personality conflict –
 - i. maybe a man isn’t naturally “take charge”
 - ii. maybe the woman is “difficult” to lead
 - c. Men are lazy and not up to task of leading their wife; it’s hard work
- iv. I think that planning will be instrumental for all husbands to lead their wives better.

1. How

a. Ephesians 5:22-33

- i. Love their wife – have a genuine love, concern and compassion for your wife
- ii. Sacrifice; work hard for the development of your wife
- iii. Set an example; your own life should be – your leadership should come from a place of knowledge and understanding and from a position where you actually have something to offer to the spiritual growth of your wife

b. I Peter 3:7

- i. Be sensitive to your wife and strive to really understand her – this takes into account the personality
 1. How is she wired?
 2. What things does she like
 3. What does she dislike
 4. What things does your wife respond to
 5. What things does she not respond to

c. Practically

- i. Assess where your leadership needs to improve; significant issues in the marriage can usually be traced back to a lack of good leadership in the household.
 1. Establish a good leadership pattern
 2. Work at loving and understanding your wife
 3. Get grounded biblically in the truth of scripture; work on your own spiritual development and incorporate prayer and dependence on God.
 4. Develop a plan a vision for your life and marriage
 5. Assess your wife and determine areas that you will focus on growth and encouragement
 6. Use the wisdom of others
 7. Work hard at getting your wife on board and work hard at getting that plan into place; creatively, thoughtfully and prayerfully
 8. Example – ministry of Nancy/Jennifer
 - a. Got grounded in Titus 2
 - b. Determined that we really know how to implement the Titus 2 plan
 - c. Enlisted Doug and Marilyn to help

3. Wives

- a. Ephesians 5:22
- b.
- c. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.
 - i. Wives – in a family context, your Goal is to follow the leadership the of your husband
 - ii. Again, by and large, women know that they should follow the leadership of their husbands, but why don't they?
 - 1. Don't trust the leadership of their husband
 - 2. Have been hurt in the past and don't trust men in general
 - 3. Failure of church leadership
 - 4.
 - 5. Husband's are shirking their responsibility to lead and so the wife takes over the reigns
 - 6. Wives don't know how to submit; it hasn't been modeled for them
 - 7. Wives deep down, don't want to submit, deep down either consciously or subconsciously they don't want to submit.
 - iii. How do women truly submit to the leadership of their husbands?
 - 1. 1 Peter 3: 1-4

1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

 - a. Conduct is important – women are actively submitting to their husbands through their conduct, by what they say, body language and by what they do. As we'll see, conduct really evidences the heart and spirit that lies within the women. By and large, husbands know when the submission is from the heart and even if husbands don't know, God knows.

- b. Fear or respect for the position and responsibility that the husband has and of course for the husband. It's a respect for God's design and plan for the marriage structure and order that God expects from those who love him. Ultimately understanding the truth of scripture and submitting to the authority of God.
- c. Quite and gentle spirit and a hidden person of the heart. The appropriate conduct is ultimately going to come from the spirit and the heart of the woman.
 - i. A women who understands and embraces God's design for marriage, a women who understands how their heart and actions are going to support and elevate and amplify the effectiveness of their husband's leadership as he embraces God's design and then a women who understands how her own fears, desires, and lack of knowledge may overtly or subtly undermine the effectiveness of their husband's leadership. This is a wise woman who is able to internalize all these things.
 - ii. Leadership requires leadership from the husband and a true heart submission from the wife.

4. Family Goals

- a. Goals for the family and goals for the family to be part of the larger family of families
- b. Ephesians 6
 - i. Develop a plan
 - 1. Ephesians 6:1-4 – children
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Time
 - c. Training up;
 - d. Roles/Responsibilities
 - e. 1st principal series
 - 2. Hebrews 10:23-25 – do not forsake the assembly of getting together, so families need to operate as a community
 - a. Staying in Campbell
 - b. Training the family; making sure that the church is the pillar and support of the truth

- c. Making it a priority,
- d. Setting aside the time
- e. Let us consider how to stimulate one another in good deeds
- f. Planning when kids are young

3. I Corinthians 12 – the church should be using gifts within the body.

- a. Goals
 - i. To be bearing fruit.
 - ii. As a church, we should have goals, we should tap into the gifts and abilities and everybody in the body
 - iii. Church planting/growth
 - iv. Having an impact on the community and having people come to faith
 - v. Meeting needs; seeking the welfare of the
 - vi.
- b. Milestones
- c. Considerations