

Daughters

Fellowship • Encouragement • Exhortation

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Monday, 13 October 2008

Dear Girls,

WEDDING CEREMONY—PART 2

The Institution of Marriage

[Minister]

Let us first listen to a summary of what the Word of God teaches us about marriage. We find there that marriage is an institution of God which pleases Him, and must therefore be held in honour among all. After God our Father made heaven and earth, He created man in His own image and gave him dominion over all things. And after the LORD God had created man, He said, *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. When the man did not find a helper fit for him among the other creatures of God, the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.* We therefore believe that the LORD also today gives husband and wife to one another. Since they are united by His hand, nothing shall separate them in this life.

Also, our Lord Jesus Christ highly honoured marriage with His presence, gifts and miracles, at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee and showed through this that this holy state ought to be kept honorably by all, and that He will aid and protect married persons, even when they are least deserving it. The LORD teaches us that marriage is an institution of God and should not be broken, when He says, *What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.*

The Profound Mystery

[Minister]

The apostle Paul teaches us that the unity of husband and wife in marriage is a profound mystery, reflecting the relationship between Christ and His church. This imparts a singular life-long holiness of purpose for your marriage. As Christ is the Head of the church, so the husband is the head of his wife. Christ loved His church to the end, and gave Himself up for her, that she might be holy and without blemish; likewise the husband shall love his wife as his own body, take care of her, and cherish her. As the church is subject to Christ, so the wife shall be subject in everything to her husband, respect him, and entrust herself to his loving care, following the example of godly women who trusted in God and were subject to their husbands.

Husband and wife shall assist each other in all good things, heartily forgiving one another their sins and shortcomings. United in love, they will more and more reflect in their marriage the unity of Christ and His church.

Because of sin they will experience many difficulties and afflictions, yet they may also believe the promise of God that they, as heirs of the grace of life, will always receive His aid and protection, even when they least expect it.

The Purpose of Marriage

[Minister]

The Word of God also teaches us about the purpose of marriage. First, husband and wife shall live together in sincere love and holiness, helping each other faithfully in all things that belong to this life and to the life to come. Second, by marriage the human race is to be continued and increased, and, under the blessing of God, husband and wife will be fruitful and multiply. If it pleases God to give them children, they shall nurture these children in the true knowledge and fear of the Lord, seeking to bring Him glory as they walk along with their children in humble obedience to all God's commands, acknowledge Him in all their ways and trust in Christ alone, not their own good works, for their eternal salvation.

And third, to avoid immorality, let every man have his own wife, and every woman her own husband. Let them enter into the marriage state, with the knowledge and consent of parents and friends; so that their physical bodies, which are temples of God, may not be defiled but may be presented to the Lord and to each other in all purity and holiness.



Listening intently.

The Duties of Marriage

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve, hear from the Word of God what the Lord requires of you in marriage.

First, Pete, know that God has set you to be the head of your wife. You shall lead her with discretion, instructing, comforting and protecting her. You shall love her as your own body, as Christ loved His church and gave Himself up for her. You shall not be bitter toward her, but shall dwell with her as a man of understanding, giving honour to your wife as the weaker vessel, for you are joint heirs of the grace of life. Then your prayers will not be hindered. Labour diligently and faithfully in the calling wherein God has set you, that you may support your family honestly, as well as have something to give to the poor.

In like manner, Genevieve, you must know how you are to carry yourself towards your husband, according to the Word of God. You are to love your husband, to honour and fear him, and to be obedient to him, in all lawful things, as to your Lord, just as the Church is obedient to Christ. You shall not strive to have dominion over your husband, but strive to be his helper in all good and lawful things. Take proper care of your family and household, walking in all honesty and virtue, without worldly pride, that you may give an example to others of modesty, faith, love and holiness.

Assist each other always and be faithful to each other. Diligently fulfil the calling which the Lord has given you in your home, in the church and in this world. Believe God's sure promise, *Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways! You shall be*

happy, and it shall be well with you.

Consent

[Minister]

Pete and Genevieve, you have now heard what the Lord requires of you and what He has promised you. Do you agree with it and do you desire to enter into this holy estate as ordained by God?

Each answers: I do.

May our gracious God give you the strength and the faithfulness to live together as husband and wife in this manner and may your help be in the Name of the LORD who made heaven and earth.

Song

[Minister]

We will now sing Psalm 103 *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* which you can find in your ceremony booklets.



[...continued next week, Lord willing, with the sermon...]

For the Greater Glory of God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

Genevieve de Deugd
Issacharian Wife

Notes:

I have sent this email to girls who have embraced a vision of victorious daughterhood as well as those who may be thinking about doing so (and even to some girls who may just like some encouragement regarding different areas of home life). Some of the girls are in the USA, UK, Australia and other parts of the world. Most are in New Zealand. You are welcome to forward this email on to others so long as you do so in its entirety. If you do not want to receive these emails please just send a return email to me stating that fact. If you know of other girls who would be encouraged by receiving these emails, feel free to forward the email to them or send me their email address.

The name Issacharian in *Issacharian Daughters* derives from Issachar, the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament the men of Issachar were commended for understanding the times. Because they understood the times, they knew what they should do. One of my aims with the *Issacharian Daughters* newsletter is to equip girls to understand the times we live in so that they will know what to do.