

MARRIAGE COUNSELING: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

In the period 1990 – 2000;

- The number of couples living together increased 71%
- Legislative changes such as “domestic partnerships” became the norm
- In Canada, certain Scripture portions fell under “hate speech because they speak about healthy marriage but against homosexuality

-

MEGASHIFT IN THINKING

1. Authority existed until the enlightenment in the 1700s. Modernism gave way to the thinking that things needed to become open for change (to make them better). In the 60s and 70s Post-modernism emerged which denied absolutism. Everyone creates truth for themselves – pluralism is in
2. Post-Modernism has no definition of the family. It is a human construct. Men oppress women. Parents oppress children. Morality is oppressive. 35 years ago, the Psychological establishment defined homosexuality as a sin.
3. The church is not exempt. The question in Bible studies is “What does this text mean to you?” Deconstructionism prevents people from asking “What does this text mean to God?”

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

The Old Testament Prophets did two things:

1. Showed the worthlessness of idols (In postmodernism, the battle cry is that there is no such thing as absolute truth. However, that statement is a statement of absolute truth.

2. It is also necessary to show that the only true God is God.

Genesis 1:1 - Does away with all “isms”

Genesis 1:27 - Dignity with a destiny (Language is important, has meaning, and reveals truth)

Genesis 1:18 - God Meets our Deficiencies – Companionship before the fall. When it says “not good,” it does not mean evil; it means *lacking*. “SUITABLE” (like an apple cut in two, each half fits perfectly together). ONE OF OUR MAIN JOBS IN MARRIAGE IS TO DISCOVER ALL THE WAYS WE ARE MADE TO FIT TOGETHER TO COMPLETE THE OTHER PERSON.

Genesis 1:19 – UNION – Man was given a gift from God. The BEST gift. THEY BOTH NEEDED EACH OTHER. FEELING had very little to do with it. YOU NEED HER; SHE NEEDS YOU. The more you find this, develop this, and meet this, the more you find what it is to find your needs met in God’s ways, means, and designs.

Genesis 1:24 – ONE FLESH – LEAVE and CLEAVE. This is a true picture of our relationship to God. We are to BREAK from our old way of living and to MAKE a new way of life. WE are to WANT the same things, THINK about the same things, DO the same things, and FEEL the same things. Not in an identical way, but in a way of DIRECTION. Treat your spouse like your own body. HEBREWS 13:4

GENESIS 3:1-12 When a blessing from God is misused it becomes a curse. Who is in charge? Us or God?