

THE BEHAVIOR PATTERNS OF HOME-WRECKING WIVES

Sermon Three of the Family Series 2014

Sunday, May 25 and June 1, 2014

Portions from *Marriage on the Rock* by Jimmy Evans

1 Peter 3:1-6

OPEN (Prov. 31:10-12) Real family change takes place when we ...

- 1) Obey God's word in your conduct whether it **feels** right or not.
- 2) Deal properly with your own **problems** in a godly way.

QUOTE: While many women are in marriages they want to see changed—and we have a great deal of sympathy for their plights—some of those wives are as **destructive** as their husbands without knowing it. They must learn to take responsibility for their part of the problem. The solution to the problem of a sinful man is not an angry, obstinate woman, but a righteous woman who is beautiful from the inside out. *Marriage on the Rock*

INTRODUCTION:

- It is the Christians, not the **Muslims**, who give worth to women!
- But there is some confusion here. The passages teaching male church leadership and the role of the women in the home were written 12 to 17 years **AFTER** the verse which shows that our worth before God is equal.
- But one thing is for sure, Galatians 3:28 teaches us that God **values** women. And so do I.

I. The **Dominant** Wife (Prov. 21:9, 19)

BIBLE EXAMPLE: Jezebel (1 Kings 16 through 22)

- Her view was that she could do whatever she wanted as queen, and ... in the **home**, and God help the person that got in her way.

What causes the dominant wife behavior?

1. Her **sin** nature! (Gen. 3:16)
2. **Fear** (1 Peter 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:7)

QUOTE: When I (Jimmy) counsel with a woman who dominates her home and/or who is embittered about her husband's lack of leadership, I almost always am dealing with a woman strongly influenced by **fear**. Fear is anti-faith, anti-love, and anti-peace. Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (see Jas. 4:7). Not only that, your **marriage** will prosper greatly as you put faith in God and His Word. *Marriage on the Rock*

3. A Detached and Un-nurturing **Father**

4. **Wrong Training**

5. **A Dominant Personality by Nature**

II. **The Enabler Wife (Gen. 27:6-10; 1 Sam. 3:13; Ex. 4:25-26)**

BIBLE EXAMPLE: **Rebekah**

WHAT IS AN ENABLER?

QUOTE: When a person allows a loved one to behave in a destructive manner, they are “enabling” the other person to be what he or she is.

Worse still, enabling occurs when a person provides the resources or **atmosphere** necessary to promote destructive behavior in another person.

Therefore, any time one allows or provides for the destructive behavior of a person in one’s family or of someone close, one is an enabler. *MOR*

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

1. **A damaged self-image of one’s worth in Christ**

2. **A distorted view of love. (Mt. 5:34-37; Heb. 12:5-8)**

- It is a dangerous thing to make life vows when our emotions are not in check! **(Mt. 5:34-37)**
- To fail in correcting children is a dangerous thing.

QUOTE: The problem with this woman’s mother was that she had only corrected and confronted her family. Seeing the extreme behavior of her mother and judging it to be wrong, she had swung to the opposite **extreme**. Her healing came from forgiving her mother, renouncing her inner vow, and learning from Scripture that real love is demonstrated by a **balance** of acceptance and accountability, not exclusively one or the other. *Marriage on the Rock*

3. **Fear of Rejection**

- The enabling wife may fail to speak up to her husband or discipline her children (or allow her husband to discipline her children) because she fears rejection.

4. **A Passive Temperament**

III. **The Distracted Wife (Titus 2:3-5)**

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS?

1. **A Distracted Husband**

2. **Motherhood**

QUOTE: The primary reason many women do not have the energy and time they need for their husbands is because they expend them on

their children. Knowing how demanding children are and how distracted men may be, a woman must seek every means available to protect her best time, energy and affection for her husband. Sometimes this means the husband must help more with the children. Also, it can mean training the children to respect your need to direct attention and affection toward your husband at certain times of the day or evening. Remember, mothers, although children are very special and need much love and attention, your relationship with your husband is even more important. So don't allow yourself to be a mother at the expense of being a wife. Your husband needs you, and your children need to see a healthy relationship between you and your husband. When your children are grown and gone, you and your husband will still be together, if you work at your marriage. *Marriage on the Rock*

QUOTE: If we mess with the divine order GOD, SPOUSE, CHILDREN, we risk great harm to our family.

3. Overload

QUOTE: With all of your might, and for the rest of your life, fight for your marriage. Strive to protect and create the time, attention and energy needed to keep your marriage strong, even if it means sacrificing in other areas. It will be worth the effort. *MOR*

4. Unrestrained or Misappropriated Relationships

QUOTE: For many women, relationships with friends, parents and other family members can pose a real threat to their marriages. While we all need these other relationships in our lives, they must be monitored carefully to make sure they are not violating our relationship with our spouse. *MOR*

IV. The Emotion Motivated Wife (Prov. 12:4; 14:1; 2 Tim. 3:6)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: Eve (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:4-6)

QUOTE: Because Eve acted on her temporary human emotion and not on what God had said, she ushered in destruction to her own life, her marriage, her children's lives, and ultimately, to all of her descendants.

What a tremendously high price to pay for doing what one feels like doing!

MOR

QUOTE: As a result of counseling hurting, confused wives for years, I (Jimmy) have found emotional motivation to be a major issue in marriages. For many women, their fears and feelings dictate everything they do in their lives and marriages. Although they read and hear what the Bible says they should do, they do not obey God's Word because their emotions are guiding them differently. For women to learn to break out of the bondage of being weak-willed and emotion-motivated, they need to become aware of the major causes of this problem. Then, they must use the ways to be free from them. *MOR*

1. An Inability to Trust God and His Word (Heb. 11:6)

QUOTE: Unbelief is not a problem; it is a sin. *Jimmy Evans*

2. Lack of Discipline

QUOTE: Some people had permissive parents who never made them do anything or who never corrected them properly. The undisciplined, and often brattish, child learned to do whatever he or she felt like doing regardless of what was right or prudent. The woman who was reared without personal discipline needs to understand that, although her parents may not have punished her for disobeying or did not make her responsible for her actions, God will. As we heard one man say, "My parents never spanked me, but when I grew up, life gave me a big spanking!" Learn now to discipline yourself and to put some parameters on your life. The greatest parameter is the Word of God. As you seek to do what God says, He will forgive you for your failures as you learn to overcome. Do not give up! God loves you! He will give you the power to succeed as you seek Him and pray for His grace.

MOR

3. Satanic Deception or Wrong Information (Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 10:4-6)

CONCLUSION: So, what do we do with a message like this?

1. Wake up!
2. Take responsibility for your own actions.
3. Identify the surface problem and the underlying problems.
4. Repent of the surface sin and any underlying sin.
5. Forgive those who have hurt you.
6. Break the pattern in your family!
7. Begin, or renew, a personal journey with God.