A Marriage That Works For The Lord

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday July 22nd, 2018

Text: Acts 18:2; I Cor. 16:19

### Intro

1. People regularly spend money, time and other resources on books, seminars, and counseling to make their marriage work. (People recognize the importance of a marriage that works!)
2. Christian couples are to be concerned not only that theirs is a marriage that works but that their marriage works for the cause of Christ!
   1. Individually we are to seek first the kingdom of God – Mt. 6:33
   2. Peter says husbands and wives are “fellow heir(s) of the grace of life” – I Pet. 3:7
   3. Elders and deacons are to be “family men” – I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6 (This tells us their wives play an important role in the managing of their homes – Eccl. 9:9; Ps. 128:1-3)
   4. Together, godly husbands and wives can be a force for good when they make their marriages work for the cause of Christ!
3. Aquila and Priscilla are a married couple that set a godly example in making a marriage work for the Lord!
   1. Not one word says they had spiritual gifts or that Aquila held offices in the church or was a preacher!
   2. They were ordinary people who set different priorities than the world around them!
4. In their brief appearances in the N.T. they show saints today how to make a marriage work for the Lord!

#### Aquila & Priscilla: They Worked Together

* 1. Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned 6 times in the N.T. (Always mentioned together):
     1. Acts 18:2: Aquila mentioned first
     2. Acts 18:18: Priscilla mentioned first
     3. Acts 18:26: Priscilla mentioned first
     4. Rom. 16:3: Priscilla mentioned first
     5. I Cor. 16:19: Aquila mentioned first
     6. II Tim. 4:19: Priscilla mentioned first
  2. Many speculations abound as to why Priscilla is mentioned first 4 out of the 6 times;
     1. She was the most outspoken – possible, as many times in the Scriptures as well as in ancient writings, the first mentioned is often the spokesperson
     2. She was the most outgoing – Speculation at best
     3. She was an officer or leader in the church – N.T. teaches only men could serve as preachers, public teachers, elders and deacons
     4. *We are not told the reason, however, perhaps all it means is that Luke & Paul saw them equally important to the cause of Christ!*
  3. For a marriage to work for the Lord both spouses need to have the same mind:
     1. *Amos 3:3:* Two can’t work together unless they are agreed!
     2. *Lk. 11:7:* Jesus said a house divided against itself cannot stand!
     3. Acts 18:2-3: They were both tent-makers and worked together!
     4. I Cor. 16:19: They worked together in hosting the church in their house at Ephesus (I Cor. 16:8) and at Rome (Rom. 16:3-5)
     5. Rom. 16:3-4: They not only worked together to make ends meet but shared in their spiritual goals as fellow workers with Paul (also risked their lives)!
  4. Aquila & Priscilla worked together in making their marriage work for the Lord!

#### Aquila & Priscilla: They Practiced Hospitality

* 1. Acts 18:1-3: The first mention of this couple is that they opened their home to Paul (Had some things in common with him)
     1. They and Paul were Jews in a foreign city (Neither of them called Corinth home) – Were from Italy, forced to leave by decree of Emperor Claudius
     2. They and Paul were both tent-makers by trade
     3. They got along with Paul as when he left Corinth they went with him (18:18) and they stayed in Ephesus (18:19)
     4. This hospitality (as well as the house of Titus Justus – 18:7) and working with Paul allowed Paul to support himself and not be accused of preaching for money (II Cor. 11:5-9).
  2. Aquila and Priscilla not only opened up their home to Paul but to the church!
     1. **Church at Ephesus** – I Cor. 16:8, 19: At one time the church at Ephesus met in their home! Still there in Ephesus at time of writing to Timothy in II Tim. 4:19 *(Timothy in Ephesus – I Tim. 1:3).*
     2. **Church at Rome** – Rom. 16:3-5: The church at Rome met in their home!
  3. Saints are told to practice hospitality *(Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2; I Pet. 4:9)* and we certainly see in Aquila & Priscilla a godly example of just that!
     1. “Hospitality” = *philonexia [fil-on-ex-ee'-ah] (G5381):* From *G5382;* hospitableness: - entertain strangers, hospitality; Lit. “Love of strangers”
     2. In ancient times hospitality often included lodging and caring for needs.
     3. Those are things we can still do for brethren today! (Rom. 12:13)
  4. Aquila & Priscilla were godly examples of a hospitable couple in making their marriage work for the Lord!

#### Aquila & Priscilla: They Supported Preaching

* 1. At the heart of any couple wanting to make their marriage work for the Lord should be a love of the gospel and for those who teach it (Gospel Preachers, or Evangelists)!
  2. The N.T. records at least two preachers who were helped by Aquila & Priscilla:
     1. Paul
        1. When Paul came to Corinth from Athens Aquila and Priscilla took him in (Acts 18:1-3)
        2. He spoke highly of them as his “fellow workers” – Rom. 16:3-5
        3. He said they “risked their own necks” for his life – Rom. 16:4
        4. They exemplified the command to “contribute(ing) to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality” – Rom. 12:13
     2. Apollos
        1. Aquila & Priscilla met Apollos in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-28)
        2. They saw he had great zeal and passion for God’s word but was off in his teaching so they took him aside (privately) and corrected him!
        3. They met Apollos in a synagogue showing their love for and concern of the gospel and those who would hear it!
        4. Apollos went on to be a great asset to Paul and for the cause of Christ (I Cor. 3:6; 16:12; Titus 3:13)
     3. One way we can make our marriages work is by making evangelism a priority in our families!
  3. Aquila & Priscilla were godly examples of supporting preaching efforts in making their marriage work for the Lord!

## Conclusion

1. Spouses married to non-Christians can still serve the Lord *(Acts 16:1; II Tim. 1:5; 3:15)* and may even convert them *(I Pet. 3:1-2)!*
2. For a marriage to truly work for the Lord husbands and wives are not to only be “one flesh” *(Mt. 19:5)* but to be of “one mind” *(I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 1:27)* in spiritual things!
3. Aquila & Priscilla set a godly example in showing how to make a marriage work for the Lord!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent of your sins and be baptized into His name!
5. If you are a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late – Repent and be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!