

## TRUSTING AND KNOWING THE LORD IN MARRIAGE

MS & MV

BB, 14 June 2014

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proverbs 3:5-6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">בְּטַח אֶל־יְהוָה בְּכָל־לִבְךָ וְאֶל־בִּינְתְּךָ אֶל־תִּשְׁעֵן בְּכָל־דְּרָכֶיךָ דַּעְהוּ וְהוּא יַיְשֶׁר אֲדָרְתֶיךָ<sup>6</sup></p>	<p><b>Proverbs 3:5-6</b> Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.</p>
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### 0. INTRO: MARRIAGE AND THE WORD OF GOD

- Joy&Seriousness: The world to be joyful must stop thinking about serious things – Jesus taught us to be *joyful* exactly *because* we can think about *serious* things in life being in HIS HANDS.
- Jesus (1) life from death (2) wine from water (in Cana in Galilee)
- The chosen text (Prov 3:5-6) is both serious and wonderfully suitable as a marriage motto – it is not just *romantic* and *nice* – it is wonderfully *realistic* ... maybe we would like to hear only nice, pleasant music, but what is liberating **is the truth**, nice words are easily lead us astray...

### 1. TRUST – WITH ALL YOUR HEART

- יהוה “The Covenant-God” for the Jews → for us it is Jesus, the incarnate יהוה
- our planning (experience; speculation; cunning) – or God’s plan for our life
- all your heart → waiting on God in marital life – beware of the advice “how to get the better of your partner”

#### 1.1 MARRIAGE IS GOD’S IDEA

- **Mark 10:9** What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.
- not evolution – not society – not desire for companion
- Marriage relationship: (1) God ↔ Israel, (2) Jesus ↔ the Church
- the institution is GOOD – what is problematic, is our realization! TRUST!

#### 1.2 MARRIAGE IS DIFFICULT

- **Mt 19:10** "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."
- the current crisis of marriage – solutions? (divorce; temporal agreements; cohabitation...)
- God’s protection from **estrangement**
- faithfulness to God first – safety for the partner TRUST!

#### 1.3 MARRIAGE IS A MYSTERY

- **Eph 5:31-32** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
- unfolding after difficulties

### 2. KNOW GOD – IN ALL YOUR WAYS

- **Pr 3:6** (CSV)...think about Him in all your ways...
- the ways of marriage: (1) common decisions, learning to share all time, all things, all ideas... (2) important things and trifles – sometimes marriages are wrecked by petty things that our pride does not want to give up

#### 2.1 THE LOVE OF GOD → SACRIFICIAL

- **1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

- our love is always a *response* – love is *sacrificial* – it is the character of God
- love is *service* – not getting but GIVING – More blessed is to give...
- the ways of forgiveness (Odpustit → zacni od nuly)
- the ways of love – acknowledge God, not self!

## 2.2 THE SCRUTINY OF GOD → PURE

- marital life uncovers our self-deception (the strongest type of deception) – God will disclose to you your secret ways of thinking and feeling – we do not know our hearts – he reveals our secrets in a bearable sequence → marriage relationship is often a very good means to discover who I really am...
- **Rom 8:27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## 2.3 THE GUIDANCE OF GOD → SAFE

- **Heb 11:8** By faith **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going.**
- He knows the future – prepares us for it – makes our paths straight despite “bumpy” feelings from time to time
- the future – fairy-tale like happy life untill death? Eternal life is qualitative description...
- bringing up children; doing church ministry; relating to neighbours etc. – zillions of surprises and unexpected difficulties

## 3. CONCLUSIONS

- Trust God to protect His gift of marriage – your partner.
- Trust God to protect you from self-seeking and estrangement.
- Trust God to guide you on His ways towards eternity.