

MYSTERY + MYSTIQUE = MAJESTY (IN RELATIONSHIPS)"



TEXT: *Ephesians 5:28-33* So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is **a great mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

THESIS: To show that maintaining a bit of mystique in a relationship you will strengthen that relationship.

INTRO.: A. Paul speaks about the marriage relationship in our text & uses the word "**mystery**" in v.32. In the N.T. a "**mystery**" is something which was not revealed previously, but is now developed to some extent. A *mystery* then contains two elements: *secrecy & revelation*. We could say that a *mystery* is something with a little held back. Or we could say a *mystery* is a sample of something, but not everything.

ILLUS.: You go to the food court in the mall & people will give you a small sample of the food they sell on a toothpick to entice you to try that food in a larger portion. (If you are really hungry on a Sat. you can go to Sam's Club & eat samples all day! 😊)

B. A *mystery* is something which piques & maintains interest in something. Jesus used this technique in teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. He used little samples called parables to interest possible future subjects of His Kingdom on earth.

Mt.13:10-11 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

C. A *mystery* is designed to whet one's appetite for more. For example, the Bible says "**Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face...**" **1 Cor.13:12**

We are also told in **1 Cor.2:9...**

1 Cor.2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Again in **1 Jn.3:2...**

1 Jn.3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

The Bible is an appetizer. It whets our appetite for what is to follow. God could have told us much more about heaven, but he left us with only tidbits, and samples, so we would have much more to look forward to later. He revealed some things, but left other things secret. That is a mystery. A mystery in the Bible is something that was unknown previously, but is now being revealed.

TRANS.: We want to apply all of the above now to relationships. We want to drive home the truth that **"MYSTERY + MYSTIQUE = MAJESTY (IN RELATIONSHIPS)**

I. MAINTAIN THE MYSTIQUE:

ILLUS.: Just about everything I know I have learned from someone else. Rarely do I make a discovery completely on my own. Even when I do so, it is due in part to something I have learned elsewhere; I am only building on that foundation. Such is the case with what I am preaching about today. Jack Hyles has a chapter in His book "The Science of The Christian Life" that deals with the mystique of relationships from which I have drawn some of this material.

A. Be What You Were:

ILLUS.: In the beginning of any relationship, you don't know everything about that person so there is a great deal of mystery. As the relationship deepens, you learn more, but you should never allow everything explored or you will destroy it.

1. Don't use up your relationship; this is what happens to us – we use take too much & destroy the mystery.
2. When there is nothing left to explore, the mystery is gone.
3. Anything you overindulge yourself in will make you sick, instead of fulfilling you.

ILLUS.: As a boy I loved cucumbers. My mother used to make a cucumber, onion & vinegar & milk dish I loved. One day I just kept eating & eating it. I got sick & to this day I can't eat cucumbers. I overindulged & paid the price.

4. The principle in any relationship is to be what you were when the relationship began, don't reveal everything.
5. Your wife attracted you because you didn't know everything about her; she reserved some things which left you wanting more.

ILLUS.: Young people want to kiss, hug, & pet & even have sexual relations with someone, not knowing that overindulgence will later destroy their relationship & eventually their marriage. Girls, you need to keep your mystique & always have your boy friend or fiancée wanting more.

B. Be More Than You Were:

1. You should live 2 lives; you should be what you were & also be more than what you were; for every relationship must grow; wives should be girlfriends & wives, etc.
2. Husbands & wives must maintain what they were when they dated, but must mature in their relationship, yet always hold something back to maintain the mystique.

ILLUS.: Sara called Abraham "**Lord**" (master, leader). They were close, but he never lost his mystique. As your pastor you all know I have a feet of clay, but I am not going to take my shoes off & show you all my faults. That's what's wrong with you calling me by my first name. That kind of familiarity breeds contempt & shows **disrespect for the office I hold**. We have broken down the wall between leadership & followship.

II. MASTER THE MYSTERY:

A. Your Person:

1. Don't become overfamiliar in any relationship; parents should be parents, not just buddies; couples should not get too close – maintain some distance.
2. Keep some refinement; manners, mannerisms (keep private what you did before you were married that you didn't want your partner to know); add marriage to your relationship, don't substitute marriage.

B. Your Personality:

1. Treat your partner, friend, children, pastor...with respect.
2. Work at your personality; try to keep it what it was before your relationship developed.

C. Your Protection:

1. Be a little formal even in your most intimate relationships – keep some distance.
2. Don't be completely transparent...master the mystery.
3. Keep some things sacred...stay a little hungry on purpose.

ILLUS.: Some things must be kept sacred. This is why we have a pornography problem in America. There is no mystery left. Everything has become commonplace.

This is why people commit adultery. There is no mystery left in the marriage.

This is why we have a homosexual problem. There is no mystery left.

This is why people are exploring things which God has forbidden. There is no mystery.

This is why the divorce rate has soared. There is no mystery left.

This is why we have men lusting after children. There is no mystery left.

We dare not lose the mystique in our relationships or we will lose the very thing which caused us to want the relationship in the first place.

We were better in *America* when we lived this way. We were better in our *churches* when we lived this way. We were better in our *homes* when we lived this way. —Jack Hyles

Our kids have vicariously lived murder till they have lost the mystique of life & become murderers. They have seen it all & done it all vicariously thru TV & movies & there is nothing sacred & the mystery is all gone. They have been used up. So they commit suicide, do drugs, become drones to whichever rock group is popular, etc.

CONCL.: The answer to all this is to return to mystery & mystique, then the majesty of relationships will return, for **"MYSTERY + MYSTIQUE = MAJESTY (IN RELATIONSHIPS)."**

The greatest relationship of all is the one Paul spoke of in our text. *"This is a great **mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ & the Church."* Do you have this most important of all relationships?!