

Church History Literacy

Puritans and Contemporary Christianity Part 3

Lesson 68

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PURITANS AND SOCIETY

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“Order”

“The essence of the social order lay in the superiority of husband over wife, parents over children, master over servants in the family, ministers and elders over congregation in the church, rulers over subjects in the state.”

***CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIETY***

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“EQUALITY”

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matt 5:13-16 (NIV)

PURITANS AND MARRIAGE

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“Limited Love”

“Wives were instructed that woman was made ultimately for God but immediately for man.”

“Human mortality gave a grim warning to every Puritan couple that God had placed a limit on their love, for marriage ended at the grave.”

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MARRIAGE***

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“Love Languages”

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- **30** for we are members of his body. **31** "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." **32** This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Eph 5:21-33 (NIV)

The Five Love Languages

- 1) Words of Affirmation***
- 2) Quality Time***
- 3) Receiving Gifts***
- 4) Acts of Service***
- 5) Physical Touch***

PURITANS AND PARENTING

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“Limited Affection”

The Puritans had come to New England for a variety of reasons, but one of the strongest, by their own account, was the urge to perpetuate pure religion among their children.

They would place their children in other families in fear of spoiling them with too great affection.

Their decision was justified on the grounds that children learned better manners by being brought up in another home other than their own.

***CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTIANITY AND
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“Child-centered”

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. **Deut 6:4-9 (NIV)**

POINTS FOR HOME

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Action Step 1: Maintain Intimacy with God.

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Action Step 2: Master Your Spouse's Love Language.

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Action Step 1: Maintain Intimacy with God.

Action Step 2: Master Your Spouse's Love Language.

Action Step 3: Model What You Want to Multiply.

3 *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

4 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)