“Let Marriage be Held in Honor”

Intro: After several chapters of ______________ discourse where the Author proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ along with the necessity of faith in Him for salvation, he then began to present how the people of faith are to ______ by faith.

A. As we learned: by faith in Christ Jesus we are to run the race with endurance, looking to that unshakable kingdom that is set before us. We are to ______ ____________, showing “gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe ...” We are to “let ______ of the brethren continue,” being careful “to show hospitality to strangers,” as we “remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since (we) also are in the body.”

I. With the endurance of faith in Jesus we are to run the race by holding ____________ in __________.

A. Honor for marriage is first and foremost an _________ ___ the heart, an issue of __________ in and honor for God.

1. Marriage is to be honored ______________ ______ created the woman for the man joining them together as one flesh, demanding that no one should tear a marriage asunder.

2. Honor means to “hold in esteem, respect, value, ________, hold as precious, costly, dear and desirable.” Such honor for marriage is held in the believer’s heart because they have heard the Word of ______ with faith, viewing marriage as He does.

B. This honor of marriage is not to be passive but ________ for it is an esteem that is held in the hearts of those who are of the faith, and the Christian faith is followed by the ________________ of faith.

1. Two individuals should _____ move in with each other living as a couple __________ they are joined in holy matrimony. Such is a failure to hold marriage in honor.

2. We who are of the faith are to hold marriage in honor is by being ___________ yoked.(cf. 2 Cor. 6:14) We who are of the faith are to be joined together only with one who is ___ the ________.

3. Marriage is held in honor as we who are married hold our ______ in reverence. Those who honor marriage comprehend that the vows of marriage are made before and ______ ______, and that because marriage is ordained by God!
a. And this is where we need to personally grow in the ________ of honoring marriage: not merely in honoring marriage by not breaking our vows but by abundantly __________ our vows. Amen, let us have grace!

C. The command to honor marriage is not only a prohibition against certain immoralities but it is an exhortation to __________ _________.

1. If one holds marriage in honor then they are committed to ________ the ________ and obligations of marriage. And truly, the one who fulfills the duties and obligations of marriage in the spirit of Christ counts their duties and obligations not as burdensome, but ___ ______ and privileges!

2. Beloved, in honoring marriage we must fulfill our vows with the husband ________ himself to His bride, and the bride giving herself to her husband. What does the Scripture say and whose Scripture is it? 1 Cor 7:2-5a, “But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband ______ his ______ to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 ______ _______ one another, ...”

a. We ______ the _______ of God in and for our marriage by giving ourselves one to another.

3. We fulfill the righteousness of God in our marriage as husbands lead the home, ______ their wife as Christ loved the church giving Himself for her and, as wives freely _______ themselves in the Lord to their husband. In this way we fulfill the righteousness of God in our marriage.

Closing: Those who possess faith in Christ have been empowered and are to run the race with endurance by reverently ________ to God the awesome service of holding His holy institution of marriage in ________! And let us honor marriage, for our God is a consuming fire!

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