

- d. Social life in the form of Christian fellowship can be a refreshing interlude, but it can never replace fellowship with God through post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation.
 - e. Therefore, Christian fellowship cannot replace the execution of the protocol plan, becoming an invisible hero, and thereby glorifying God.
 - f. So, beware of assigning to Christian fellowship a role it can never play. However, if you grow in grace, execute the protocol plan, and use the problem-solving devices, your relationships in life will be fantastic.
5. Marriage.
- a. One of the greatest misconceptions in life originates from the myth that marriage means happiness and is a panacea of life.
 - b. Actually, marriage is a problem-manufacturing device related to the fragmented life.
 - c. It isn't the institution of marriage that is at fault, but the fact that people are no better in marriage than they are as people.
 - d. A believer who uses his volition to pull the pin of arrogance has fragmented his life. Fragmentation polarizes into sin nature trends which can very quickly destroy a marriage.
 - e. Therefore, the perpetuation of the fragmented life causes the believer to become a loser. If he's married, he's also a loser as a spouse.
 - f. Losers are not believers who fail, but believers who do nothing about their failures, like not using the problem-solving devices. Only the problem-solving devices can convert a loser into a winner, whether he's single or married.
 - g. Only the plan of God and problem-solving devices have answers. Regarding marital problems, remember that you can only change yourself; you can't change your spouse. Changing yourself means mastering and utilizing the problem-solving devices.
 - h. But most people try to change their marriage problems by trying to change their spouse to conform to their standards, or if that doesn't work, by changing their spouse.



- i. The arrogance of unhappiness is always trying to change others to comply with their own system of fragmentation, polarization, or standards which are incompatible with the plan of God. But even if you have good standards, you can only change yourself; you cannot change someone else. Only Bible doctrine can change us; and the change begins in the soul.
 - j. So, both in the Christian life and in marriage, you can only change yourself; you cannot change someone else. Obviously, there is no solution to the problems of marriage apart from impersonal love for all mankind.
6. What is the destroyer of marriage?
- a. Many people cite such causes as unfaithfulness, money, relatives, incompatibility, or disillusion for marital failure. Yet these are merely symptoms; they do not diagnose the disease.
 - b. The greatest destroyer of marriage is pulling the pin in the grenade of arrogance by committing such sins as jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, self-pity, hypersensitivity, revenge, gossip, slandering, or maligning the spouse.
 - c. Once the believer uses his own volition to pull the pin of the grenade through the sins of arrogance, he fragments his life. Only one of the marital partners needs to be fragmented to cause problems.
 - d. Fragmentation polarizes the sin nature trend. If the trend is toward self-righteous arrogance, you may come to hate your spouse in marriage. However, you have lost a far greater battle than the marriage; you have fragmented your own life and become a loser in God's protocol plan.
 - e. Losers cannot solve problems. Losers in marriage cannot solve the problems of marriage.
 - f. While there are definite Biblical reasons for divorce, divorce is no solution; it is generally an escape.
 - g. After divorce, you are the same fragmented person, for the fragmented person in marriage is a fragmented person out of marriage. Apart from Bible doctrine and learning and using the problem-solving devices, nothing has changed.



- h. Unfaithfulness in marriage is a sign of a polarized trend of the sin nature toward lascivious lawlessness. This polarized fragmentation means you have not solved the problem. You are still the same person.
 - i. An arrogant person in marriage is an arrogant person out of marriage. This means that divorce is an escape from a fractured situation but it still does not resolve the problem between them.
 - j. Only cognition and utilization of the problem-solving devices can solve any marital problem.
7. Marital Failure.
- a. Marriages fail because believers are failures as human beings.
 - b. Marriages fail because believers get married for the wrong reasons, e.g., for a meal ticket, because of peer pressure, to escape unpleasant circumstances, for legalized sex, unrealistic expectation, role model arrogance, or libido.
 - c. Marriages fail because believers make bad decisions from a position of weakness (inside the cosmic system).
 - d. Marriages fail because believers erroneously assume that marriage is a problem-solving device when it is really a problem-manufacturing device.
 - e. Marriages fail because believers assume that marriage is happiness, but marriage was never designed for happiness. Marriage was designed for virtue. Virtue is designed for happiness.
 - f. Happiness in marriage depends on virtue-love in three categories:
 - (1) Personal love for God the Father.
 - (2) Impersonal love for all mankind.
 - (3) Occupation with the Person of Jesus Christ.
 - g. These three problem-solving devices are the road to recovery from the fragmented life and from the troubled marriage. These three problem-solving devices function effectively at the point of spiritual self-esteem, even more effectively at the point of spiritual autonomy, and to their maximum at the point of spiritual maturity.

(End JAS4-71.Rev. See JAS4-72.Rev. for continuation of study at p.711.)

