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**Marriage: Sexual Relationship
(Summary of notes from R.B. Thieme)**

Part 1:

1. Marriage is a Divine Institution with existed before man's sinfulness, Gen 2:21-25.
2. Sexual relationship was an expression of marriage in innocence, Gen 2:24.
3. Primary purpose of sex is an expression of love.
4. Sex existed before sin. Whatever sins may be involved in sex, sex is not sinful (within the confines of marriage).
5. Secondary purpose of sex is the propagation of the race, this came into the picture after the fall of man, Gen 4:1.
6. After the Fall, the woman could no longer have sex just for pleasure, but it had another purpose, bearing children, which (bearing children) had pain connected with it.
7. Man's old sin nature (which came with the fall) introduced things that sometimes distort and destroy sex: lust. Sex lust takes sex out of its proper place and makes it love itself. On the other hand asceticism says sex is only for propagation.

Part 2:

1. Sex is an act of personal volition, mentally desirous.
2. Sex is an act of mutual response – needs mental preparation. Man initiates, woman responds.
3. Sex is an act which is only meaningful when there is true love. Mental attitude love must precede sex love or it becomes mechanical and animal.
4. Sexual relationship in marriage is for recreation. Purpose: Expression of love between partners.
5. Sex relationship is also for procreation – perpetuation of the human race.
6. Love happiness must precede sex happiness.

7. Sex merges a man and woman and makes them one. There is no such thing as superiority in sexual relationship. Man loses his sovereignty in sexual relationship and at the same time the woman gains from and receives from the man and in doing so, she gives.

Part 3:

1. Marriage is the boundary for sex as declared in the Word of God (the absolute criterion), 1 Cor 7:1-5. Without boundaries many people would be hurt and a nation destroy itself.
2. Marrying simply for sexual experience is a dangerous ground upon which to base a lasting and happy marriage.
3. The husband is commanded to love his wife, Eph 5:25.
4. Love is a mental attitude – what you think.
5. Sex is only one of the many expressions of that mental attitude.
6. The woman must respond to the man mentally before she will ever respond to him sexually, or in any other way. Otherwise you have nothing more than animal activity. If a woman is not responding to her husband mentally she will say, “I have a headache, or I’m tired” or use some other excuse.
7. Love happiness (moment by moment rapport) must precede sexual happiness.
8. Any husband who fulfills Eph 5:25 will receive the proper response from his wife.
9. The husband’s love should be predominantly aggressive and protective. The wife’s love should be responsive and receptive. From the standpoint of human anatomy, the Bible is verified: Man gives, the woman receives.
10. Principle: Man initiates love, both mental and sexual. Woman responds to it.
11. The body of one partner rightfully belongs to the other (1 Cor 7:4); therefore any selfish motivation of action is ruled out.
12. The beauty of the sexual concept is that there is response and counter response. The man becomes complete because the woman completes him. God separates something (rib) from the man and now this is returned to him in the form of a mate. The woman compliments the man, thus emphasizing her complete femininity.
13. Man does not get love by demanding love. He can only get love by giving love first (mental attitude love).

14. No man has the right to demand relationship with his wife. Husband must live from the ultimate source of his mental attitude. He can only get by giving of himself.

15. The woman is a responder. The husband cannot subject his wife to abuse and mistreatment and expect her to respond to his advances when is he ready to make love.

16. Since God has so ordained the man and woman for each other, the sexual relationship should not be denied to each other except under certain conditions of true worship and spiritual activity, 1 Cor. 7:5.

17. Sex minus love equals a lifetime of misery. Sex plus love equals happiness.

18. Real love is a mental attitude, therefore, it is POSITIVE and not POSSESSIVE.

19. Since marriage is founded on the mental attitude of love, the older you become, the more wonderful the marriage should be.

20. However, those who look at life, and therefor marriage from the human viewpoint, will consider the body only as an instrument in the expression of sex; and because of this improper emphasis on the body as a sex symbol, the marriage of such a person can only get worse as the body deteriorates with age and loses some of its symmetry and human attractiveness.

21. Sex is NOT an island to itself. True love eliminates ego in relationship. Marriage partners should not compete with each other.

22. When mental attitude love prevails and precedes the sex relationship, then sex becomes a beautiful expression and tapestry of blending of two factors of life into one.

23. Sexual compatibility without mental compatibility can destroy a marriage. Mental attitude compatibility and sexual compatibility with spirituality can make an exceeding happy marriage.

24. Marriage cannot survive on the basis of sex, it takes something greater than sex. It takes increasing mental attitude and spiritual compatibility.