

Lecture 3: Marriage & Seminary Life

Father, we thank You for this day, we ask for You to be with us. We pray that we may learn and rejoice in You as the one who acts into history, into our history, into the history of each of Your children to bring about Your purposes in the world. We ask that we may learn to be faithful. We pray that You will teach us by the example of both the good and the bad in the lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, that we may follow You more closely. We ask it for Jesus' sake, Amen.

Review and Introduction: A summary of the contributions of Edith to her and Francis' relationship was begun in lecture 2. The rest of this summary begins this lesson. Professor Barrs then traces their lives together, from their courtship until the time of their move to Wilmington, Delaware for the completion of Francis' seminary work.

Marriage & Seminary Life**IV. What Edith Brought to the Relationship (cont.)**

- A. A strong commitment to prayer
- B. A deep compassion for those in affliction
- C. Value for human life
- D. Commitment to the unity of all true believers
- E. A passion for truth over against Modernism (Liberalism)
- F. A problem with Evangelical legalism
- G. A love for creativity in any form
- H. A life-long concern for the Chinese people

V. Relationship & Marriage

- A. Rapid growth/Correspondence
- B. Wedding: July 1935
- C. Lessons
 - 1. Unrealistic expectations
 - 2. Relationship is more important than the circumstantial details of a situation
 - 3. The wife's calling is to go where her husband is called
 - 4. He was committed to sharing everything with her
- D. Summer Bible camp

VI. Seminary Life (Westminster Theological Seminary, Fall 1935)

- A. Difficulties
- B. "Coupledness"
- C. Commitment to service for the Lord
- D. Summer camp

VII. Background to Liberal Problems and Division

- A. J. Gresham Machen Defrocked (1936)
 - 1. Liberal domination of denomination
 - 2. Independent mission board
 - 3. Presbyterian Church of America
- B. Issues that bothered the Schaeffers
 - 1. Standing for holiness while preserving relationships
 - 2. A deterministic view of the Reformed faith
 - a. Effect on humanness
 - b. Effect on prayer

IX. The Death of Machen (1937); Splitting of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

- A. Issues

1. The degree of “Reformed” doctrine
 2. Christian liberty
 3. Prophetic views
 4. Personality clashes
- B. The Schaeffer’s reflection on the period
- C. Results
1. Westminster Theological Seminary (Orthodox Presbyterian Church)
 2. Faith Theological Seminary (Bible Presbyterian Church)
 3. Summer, 1937: The Schaeffers move to Wilmington, Delaware—Faith Theological Seminary.