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## Transformation in the Family

### **HOW TO ENJOY INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE (Part 2)**

#### **MARRIAGE FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE**

- THE BIBLE opens and closes with God officiating at two history-making marriages.
- GOD *loves* marriage. "He who finds a wife/spouse finds a good thing and obtains (a) favor from the Lord". Proverbs 18:22
- SATAN *hates* marriage.
- MARRIAGE is absolutely essential for God's generational blessings to be passed on.

#### **INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS:**

- Marriage is the great revealer of problems.
- God loves to fix those problems.
- A man must leave his father and mother and join himself to his wife for the two to become one flesh.
- Your spouse is God's *only* personal gift to you.

#### **A "CAT SCAN" OF YOUR SOUL**

- What have you brought to your marriage?
- What kind of relational background have you had?
- Basic requirement for a covenant is freedom by the parties to enter into it.
- Home – Prior relationships – Purity
- "The wasting away of a man's soul." (Proverbs 6:32)
- "The way (trace) of a man on a (virgin) young woman." (Proverbs 30:19)
- Your first year of marriage (Deuteronomy 24:5).
- Old Testament concept of sexual relationship. "*Knowing*".

***"DOCTOR, I DON'T LIKE THE DIAGNOSIS! HELP!!!***

## **DIFFERENT COMMANDS BUT THE SAME PROMISE**

Ephesians 5:25-27 and I Peter 3:1-2

- God's command to husbands (Ephesians 5:25):  
*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her."*
- God's promise to husbands (Ephesians 5:27):  
*"That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*
- God's command to wives (I Peter 3:1,4):  
*"In the same way, you wives, be honoring of your own husbands...but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God."*
- God's promise to wives (1 Peter 3:2):  
*"So that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior."*

### **The Context for these commands**

- The Fullness of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:17-21)
- Spiritual Warfare (I Peter 3:18,19,22)
- Jesus' Authority
- The Role of the Holy Spirit

*"...I will not leave you orphans (John 14:18) ...The Spirit of Truth...will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak (to you); and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall take of (that which is) Mine and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, He takes (that which is) Mine (and the Father's) and will disclose (pass on) to you."* (John 16:13-15)

### **The “WHY” of God’s two different commands**

- Why wives are told to honor and respect.
- Why men are told to love their wives ...unconditionally.
- Men and Women’s challenges: heart vs. mind.

### **THE THREE KINDS OF LOVE NEEDED FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE**

1. **Agape:** When did Christ give Himself for the Church?
2. **Fileo:** Friendships need to be cultivated and cultivation requires structure.
3. **Erotic:** Men and women are different. Prefer one another...

Lack of intimacy is a stronghold that often begins to be built the first night of the honeymoon (or the first time sexual intercourse takes place).

- Understanding and revealing.
- Leading and challenging.
- Deciding and appealing.
- The “hidden person” of the heart (I Peter 3:3). What is it?

### **ANATOMY OF ADULTERY**

- *Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant (it tastes sweet in the mouth (Proverbs 9:17)...* But when you turn the lights on, it is still bread and water.
- The deception of the missing 20 %.

## **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

- Ways in which a husband can express unconditional love: Empathy
- Ways in which a wife can bestow honor: Loyalty. Covering
- A wife's most lethal weapon: Nagging.
- A husband's most lethal weapon: Withdrawing.

### **For wives only: How to change a difficult husband.**

- Take your position in Christ (forgiven and forgiving).
- Acknowledge your husband as God's gift to you.
- Pull down the stronghold of hopelessness.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit and take a firm stand against the devil.
- Identify at least one area, no matter how small, where you can honor him, & *do it!*
- Reveal in a steady and progressive way "*the hidden person of the heart*" by appealing to his role as protector.
- A powerful tool: sex! (1 Corinthians 7:14)

### **For husbands only: How to change a difficult wife.**

- Intercession is the key.
- Understanding
- Be aware at all times that "she is a woman"!
- Honoring her as a fellow heir of the grace *of life*.
- Give yourself *to her!*
- A powerful tool: Empathizing!
- Accepting irreconcilable differences.

## **UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES IN ROLES**

Leader – Provider – Protector

Completer – Administrator – Revealer

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

- Husbands are sanctified in their wives and vice versa.
- Jesus Christ came to seek and save *all* that was lost.
- Bonding (Vertical and Horizontal)

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