

MARRIAGE ON MISSION: Understanding God's Purpose for Marriage

Session 2: Marriage on Mission: An Introduction

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Questions

What one word would you want to describe your marriage?

What one word best describes your spouse?

What one word do you think your spouse would use to describe you?

What do you love most about your spouse?

What do you love most about your marriage?

How would you define a good/successful marriage?

What characteristics would be a part of it?

Where did your definition of a good marriage or a good spouse come from?

GALATIAN CONTEXT

- The Apostle Paul writes to churches in Galatia to keep them from following the false gospel of the Judaizers, who were diminishing God's grace in favor of human works.
- Paul gives the true gospel - salvation is purely the work of God and because of His grace.
- Salvation comes through faith alone and not human works.
- The Spirit works through those believers to empower them to love as only God can love.

Paul's great summary statement in Galatians – 5:6

⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

In this chapter, Paul tells how God makes this possible and what we need to do:

- The power of the flesh has been crucified for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Live by the Spirit and the Spirit will bear His fruit in our lives.

Galatians 5:16-24

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

No definition or standards for a good marriage between Christians can omit the _____
_____ or include anything from the _____.

What does Paul mean by in the flesh:

- Living according to the desires, values, and standards of the fallen world.
- This definitely includes selfishness, pride, desire for power, etc.

What can we do?

EPHESIANS CONTEXT

- The Apostle Paul begins the letter by explaining how God through Jesus Christ has unveiled the “mystery of the gospel.”
- The mystery is— Through the work of Jesus Christ, we are made alive in Christ and those who are alive are united as one body, one family, even one nation.
- In the second half of the letter, Paul explains how this unity will be developed and what it looks like in Christian relationships.

After emphasizing the foundation of our unity in the early part of chapter 4, Paul writes this:

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

There is an essential link between a healthy _____ and healthy _____.

THE FIRST STEP

Be _____ by the _____ in your _____.

What is your definition of a good marriage and how does it line up with what God sees as godly, healthy relationships?

To improve our marriages:

- Maximize _____
- Pray that we and our spouses will become more _____.
- Pray that our marriage relationships will display _____.

CHRISTLIKE RELATIONSHIPS

Paul provides specific ways to express Christlikeness in Christian relationships. Everything that he says should be happening in Christian relationships in the church should be the minimum of what should be happening in Christian marriages.

Do not forget the context - All of this presumes what was said earlier – Christlikeness is ultimately the work of God in believers indwelt by the Spirit, who are being disciplined, and maturing in how their faith expresses itself through love.

IN LOVE

Speak _____ (v. 25)

In the Spirit –

In the flesh –

_____ quickly and completely so that the relationship is _____. (v. 26-27)

In the flesh –

In the Spirit –

Meet each other's _____ (v. 28-29)

In the flesh –

In the Spirit –

_____ one another up (v. 29)

In the flesh –

In the Spirit –

Be characterized by _____, _____, and _____. (v. 32)

In the flesh –

In the Spirit –

Chapter 5

² *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- Flee even the thought of sexual immorality. 5:3
- Be characterized by gratitude. 5:4
- Walk as children of light in a way that pleases the Lord. 5:9-10
- Keep each other from evil 5:5-7, 11-12
- Use your time to follow the will of the Lord. 5:15-17

¹⁸ *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* ²⁰ *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ²¹ *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

If we live by the Spirit, how should we answer: What do you love most about your spouse?

What do you love most about your marriage?

What is the most important relationship in Christian marriages?