

Marriage **Part 2: "Saving Marriage!"**

When we left off...

We were talking about love that is willing to alter its course for the sake of others... Jesus' kind of love! That kind of love must begin at home with our mates first! Not anymore "sacrificial" than our love for God that demands alterations to our course...

Because we reap the rewards of making the right choices! (Adjustment!) We love one another because we were made one and it's how life works best!

"God created them *male and female* and blessed them and said, '*Be fruitful and multiply* and replenish the earth and *subdue it and have dominion* over every living thing..." **Genesis 1.27,28** "From the beginning of creation God made them *male and female*, for this cause they cleave to one another and *the two are made one flesh so they are no longer two but one flesh...*" **Mark 10.6-8**

From the Beginning...

God created us male and female... Sexuality came before the fall! Created unashamedly sexual/"To fit!" ***He created us for inextricable, inseparable, impenetrable partnership!*** "Leave and cleave/Two made one flesh" ***He created the "partners" for rulership over His creation!*** "Create a helper for him/let them rule!"

"God created ministry to flow from sound marriages!"

We were created to operate together for a lifetime... and from that togetherness we were meant to bear fruit, duplicate ourselves, our good works, and rule and reign in our worlds... and if you can... ruin marriages, redefine marriage, make hurting, unrestored divorcees, bitter and suspicious, trick fearful singles into using defiant co-habitation to break the norm of morality... then you can stop the flow of ministry!

Asides... ***"God created ministry to flow from sound marriages!"*** Can it flow from unsound marriages? Yes! "Treasure in earthen vessels!" **2Cor4.7** Can it flow from unmarried people? Yes! Jesus/Paul good cases to soothe fear! "To whom it is given!" **Mt19.10ff** Can it flow from widows/er's? Yes! There are 60+-er's **1Tim5.1-16** who have had such perfect marriages that they can't conceive marrying again... **Gen2.18**

But singlehood shouldn't be because of fear, bitterness... *the last thing to quit should be our hearts!*

Though there are exceptions, it is obvious from the *beginning* scriptures that God meant ministry on earth to flow, ultimately, from a sound marriage relationship!

With marriage being so fundamental in creation, so important to the Creator, is there any wonder why marriages are under attack? And with so many assaults is it any wonder why there are so many bad, broken up, given up marriages and so few, coveted, good ones?

Marriage is under attack! By an *enemy* we can't see... By a *society* we see "too much" of... And temptations and lusts we all feel! To win we must *develop* deep roots so that we can't be uprooted!

"I must build strong foundations!" "I will defend my inextricable bond!" "I will make my marriage a blessing!" "I will cover my mates back!"

Before we can get to building good marriages... we have to stop to save some!

Saving Marriage...

First, stop the bleeding! (profound/slow) If you're cut up, *take the time* to get help or you'll bleed out! "We're bleeding to death... *and we're getting weaker and weaker!*" We must take the time to get proper wound care... Time, alone, will not heal all wounds. Wounds not properly treated can become infected and kill the host! When "two are one..." if one part dies, both taste the death!

Second, make your marriage the priority it is to God! *It takes precedence over other priorities!* It's your job, your TV, your family, your life, your sports, your hobbies... Prove you're in control; *put it all on hold to hold on to your marriage!* Everything that's not helping needs to fade into the background! *Time* to talk, work out differences, build up, turn things around! Get on the same page about God, kids, church, money, everything! ***Listen to yourselves/watch your words...*** Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks! **Mt 12.34** Your words tell us if there's poison in your belly! **Jam 3.5ff** Don't let any more evil flow from your lips, say what helps! **Eph 4.29** "For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile!" **1Pet 3.10**

Ever notice... How desperate, hurting people will stoop to new lows to end a conversation and win an argument? Bring up your past! Bring up your insecurities! Bring up your fears! Start yelling/full force! Lowest of lows: Get physical! You can *overpower* your mate but that's not "winning!"

The D-word! Is the fastest way to end an argument... and your marriage... "Divorce" is blunt force trauma/mate! Collateral damage to love, respect, fairness, family, friends is enormous! The Devil, loves to hear the whistle and blast of the D-bomb... "Divorce" is the word that calls to the prince/forces of separation! God hates divorce and only allows it for the hardness of our hearts! **Mk10.5**

"If you are so angry, bitter and poisoned; come to the tree that gives life and put a guard on your lips!" **James 3.2-12 Exodus 15.23-25**

Third, if you're in an *affair* you need to crash it, today, now, and walk away! *Sexual contact* with anyone who is not your mate is adultery! Intercourse, oral or digital sex, groping, is obviously unacceptable... but *Sexting/phone sex* is an affair! *Flirtatious chatting* is an affair! *Soul ties* with someone other than your mate is adultery! *Pornography* is a paper/plastic affair!

"Don't be fooled, a man cannot take fire to his bosom and not have his clothing burned... whoever commits adultery lacks understanding, he destroys his own soul, he gets a wound with dishonor and his reproach will never be wiped away!" **Proverbs 6.27, 32,33**

Sexual contact is reserved solely for the marriage relationship! Let's call it what it is: Sex outside of the marriage relationship is either *adultery* or *fornication*!

SWAIGTDWWIKN?

I am going to turn a scrutinizing eye toward my marriage! Not going to take for granted, "All is well!" Not well until "WE" say it is well! *Listen* w/patience and resolve! "Search *me*, O God, and know *my* heart: try *me*, and know *my* thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in *me*, and lead *me* in the way everlasting." **Ps139.23,24** *In a two-is-one relationship/"me" is we! And whatever is sick, hurting, I want the Spirit to point out and Jesus to heal!*

I am going to make sure I am giving my best for my marriage! I am going to charge up my faith! I'm going to help my mate/charge up faith! I'm going to demonstrate love that alters its course for the sake of someone else! I'm going to take time and thought to serve my mate the way Jesus does us! I will make strong declarations of my faith over my marriage!

I am going to protect my mate from sexual temptation! For him: "I am going to keep his physical needs tank empty..." *A man who is satiated by his wife will never accept someone else's scraps!* For her: "I am going to keep her emotional tank filled to the brim..." *A woman will never fall for flattery when she is genuinely "complimented and complemented!"*