

Marriage!

Part 3: "Building Marriages!"

And the difference is... The kind of love that is willing to alter its course for the sake of others... Jesus' kind of love! It begins at home with our mates! Not "sacrificial" when we reap the rewards of making the right choices! Because we know that God meant for ministry to flow from sound marriages!

"Created male and female to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth and to subdue and have dominion over it!" **G1**

When we left off... We were talking about what love, that is willing to alter its course for the sake of others, does to "save" marriage!

It stops the bleeding/death by 1,000 cuts! Whether simple wound care, ER, or ICU you get the proper treatment... You don't let "time" heal... you get intentional, aggressive treatment! And it doesn't say "well" until the "WE" says it well! Husband-wife-and Holy Spirit!

It makes marriage the priority it is to God! Everything else goes on hold if you're struggling/out of touch/growing cold! And you "converse" thru to resolution! Watching your words/listening for poison/cutting off evil speaking about each other! YOU GIVE YOUR ABSOLUTE "GOD'S BEST" EFFORT TO SAVE MARRIAGE! And you never let the D- word, divorce, slip from your heart and lips unless you're willing to accept and admit total defeat!

It crashes all "extra-marital" affairs! No sexual contact with anyone other than your mate! Physical: fornication/oral/digital/"dry" Electronic: No sexting/email/phone. Imaginary: porn/covetous reverie And it protects mates from sexual temp's!

"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** Satisfy your thirst from your own well. Let your generative powers flow and your children be a blessing to many. Let them be your own, and not a strangers'. Let your fountain be blessed as you rejoice with the wife of your youth; the loving hind and pleasant roe. Let her breasts satiate and inebriate you at all times; and be enraptured and carried away with her love always!" **Proverbs 5.14-19 (Lit)**

Dark Strategy... Ruin marriages, redefine marriage, make unrestored divorcees leery of marrying again, trick young singles into defiant co-habitation as a new norm to God's morality and you can stop God's *blessed plan* for marriage and the ministry He created to flow from sound partnerships!

Motives to Build Marriage! First, to honor and please our Creator! "In the beginning... He squeezed man from the earth (yatsar) and He crafted the woman, his completer (banah)... and He made the two into one to be fruitful and multiply and to replenish the earth and to subdue it and have dominion over it!" **Gen1/2** To honor: "Submit yourselves to one another *in the fear of God!*" **Eph5.21** To please: *Living by faith (FOS)*; fulfilling and displaying His design! **Heb 11/Gen2**

Second, to demonstrate the relationship of our Savior and the Church! "Wives, show support for your husbands to show that you submit to Christ. The husband is to provide leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church. So, just as the church submits to Christ as He leads, wives should submit to their husbands." **Ephesians 5.22-24 (Lit)** "Husbands, go all out in love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, a love that makes the church whole and beautiful. Everything He does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white, radiant, holiness..." **v25-27 (Lit)** "And that is how husbands ought to love their wives... doing themselves a favor since they're "one" in marriage. A man doesn't abuse his own body. He feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, the church, since we are part of His body." **v28,29 (Lit)**

Third, to experience happy, blessed lives on the earth! When we are living our design... we are in the sweet spot of life! Physically: "Connected, satiated, protected!" **1Cor7.2-9 Pr6.15-20** Mentally: "Hearts engaged, safely trusting, respecting, honoring...!" **Pr31** Spiritually: "blessed, fruitful, multiplying, fulfilling and ruling!" **G1/2 The Bull and the Butterfly! G2** Power-prayer centers! **1Pet3.7**

1 Peter3.1,2,7 "Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands in a way that, without one word, they will want to live out their Godly lives. Husbands, setup your marriage according to Godly knowledge; *honor* your wife as the embodiment of an uncommon vessel, as being heirs together of the grace of life; *that your prayers be not hindered.*"

SWAIGTDWWIKN? Communicate, co-municate, COMMUNICATE! "To reveal clearly; to make manifest. To have an interchange, as of ideas. To express oneself in such a way that one is readily and clearly understood." Do not: say one thing and mean another, say one thing when you should have said something else...

"Let your yes be yes and your no be no... all else is hypocrisy and shows an open link to evil..." **Mt5.37 James 5.12** What's the hypocrisy? You say you follow Christ, the model of transparency and honesty, the One in whom there is no darkness... And yet speak in shades of truth! What's the evil? Deceptive, self-destructive speech! "Shades of truth lead to dark spaces where evil lurks!"

Communication "Do Not's" *DN* say one thing and mean another! *DN* say one thing when you should have said something else! *DN* infer, or hint at, or "transmit" your true feelings! *DN* start at one place knowing you are really headed to another! *DN* expect your mate to know what you mean w/o telling them! *DN* get disrespectful/uncivilized! Fear, anger can cause things to get mean quickly... Do not tear your partner down! Sharp tongue/carving yourself up! *DN* bring up the past if you have said that you forgave it! (makes you a liar!) Leave the past behind! **Ph3.13 H8.12**

Stop being kinder to strangers, your boss, co-workers, friends and church family than you are to your own mate!

Communication "Do's" *D* make time to be heard and listen! Be available, approachable... "Prove you own the stuff/doesn't own you!" Turn off the TV/Phone/Computer! Be reasonable in your approach...

"My" time is not always right time! Check both sets of emotions! *D* keep the goal in sight... To understand and be understood... To help grow but not belittle... To restore, unite, and build stronger... *D* speak accurately and "presently!" Drop the "You *always*... you *never*... I *knew* you would... I've *been meaning* to tell you... I've *never told you the truth*... *D* listen for the voice of God thru your mate! God specializes in using the most unlikely sources to get our attention! *D* make time for talking "dreams" (find your future), laughing (having fun) and romance (building fire)! *D* learn to say, "I am sorry..."

Fully align with God's design! How will you deal w/the "great mystery?" "the man will leave... and cleave to his wife and the two will be one flesh." **G2.25 Mt19.5 Mk10.7 1Cor6.16 Eph 5.31** If that's your mate, your match, your completer then why do you need "planned" time away from them? Cultural issue; and *human culture never overrides spiritual nature!* *Never once heard an old married couple say secret to success was "time off!"*

Sexual temptation and "avidity" often develop in the vacuum of an unsatisfying marriage... and virtually guarantee more misery!

Love, protect and serve each other! "If you have a problem, I have a problem and I am bringing my "A" game and all the kingdom resources I know how to operate in, to the table!" If "we" two are one, stop trying to separate your problems/solving!

"We love like we are one body...we don't hate our own flesh but love it... no one hates their own flesh but we nourish and cherish it, *like the Lord does His church!*" **Eph 5.28,29**