

Marriage!

Part 4: "Gender-Specific Protection!"

Our mini-marriage series... *Is built on giving the kind of love that is willing to alter its course for the sake of others... (nothing in the way!) Jesus' kind of love!*

It makes no sense to gain the whole world and lose our own marriages! Jesus kind of love must begin at home with our mates! Not "sacrificial" when we reap the rewards of making the right choices!

If we are in trouble... we put a hold on everything to get the proper help to heal! WE GIVE OUR "GOD'S BEST" EFFORT TO SAVE OUR MARRIAGE! It may require the "oddity" of being "separate for a time to pray" but "being back together again quickly" to not give the devil any place to put you to the test for your incontinency..." **1Cor 7.5 (Ex 19.15, 1Sam21.4 "3 days of separation")**

If we are not in trouble we do all we can to build a strong marriage... Because we want to honor God as Designer! God designed all ministry on earth to flow from strong marriages and sound families! **G1/2 Adam & Eve, 8/9 Noah, 35 Jacob** We want to depict Jesus love relationship with the Church! And we want to have great lives! Physically/mentally/spiritually/prayer!

To build strong marriages... *We communicate, a lot! We align ourselves with the "great mystery!" musterion: something to be revealed!* "That the man and his wife, are made one flesh..." *And we love, protect and serve each other with the love that is willing to alter its course for the sake of another!*

Two main battlefields... Sexuality and Avidity...

Sexuality... We live in a very sexualized society! Whether hetero/homo/mono-sexuality or perverseness, sexuality is all around us! "The Southern Decadence Festival is one of our nation's most notorious celebrations of sodomy, public sex acts, prostitution, drunkenness, and worse..." (patriotaction.net)

Not just an adult topic anymore! School age children caught in the net under the guise of education!

FRC: Gorham Middle School: Parents are still steaming over a shocking scene where school administrators used "Diversity Day" to introduce kids to a vivid description of homosexual foreplay. The presenters, Proud Rainbow Youth of Southern Maine, hosted the assembly. What was meant to be a conversation about "tolerance" quickly turned into a graphic explanation of gay and lesbian sex acts. Although several teachers said how "uncomfortable" they were, not one intervened--leaving families appalled and irate. "I don't want my child taught heterosexual foreplay, let alone homosexual foreplay in school," fumed parent Kristy Howard. "I don't think it's the place. Angry moms and dads said they found out about it when their children came home shell-shocked. Principal Riley sent home letters of apology, but he still insists that the day "went very, very well." In fact, he told some reporters that he thought the assembly was "good for students." You don't have to be a conservative to appreciate the damage this kind of indoctrination can cause. Most parents feel this is an inexcusable violation of their rights and their children's innocence.

"Recruiting children?" gay columnist Daniel Villarreal wrote. "You bet we are." In a candid article last year, Villarreal says parents are right to be worried. "[Conservatives] accuse us of exploiting children and in response we say, 'NOOO! We're not gonna make kids learn about homosexuality, we swear! ...But let's face it--that's a lie. We want educators to teach future generations of children to accept queer sexuality. In fact, our very future depends on it... Can we please just start admitting that we do actually want to indoctrinate kids?' (Honesty or defiance?)

To get to a generation of kids that can be cut off from Godly morality you must first destroy their lines of defense: parents and the church!

Best way to destroy the church is to destroy the fountain of ministry that flows from strong marriages and solid families! If you're talking about strong marriages you have to talk about sex, and church is the place because God is the Author of our sexuality!

Gender-specific protection! Ever noticed that men and women are different? “Male and female created...” Sexuality is God’s endowment to mankind within the institution of m/w marriage! When you talk about strong marriages you have to talk about the different ways we approach protecting our mates from sexual temptation and failure! Ask older married couples: success/failure. When the sex is good, we are safe! When it is bad, we are at risk!

But good sex is more than technique and endurance... it’s about love that alters its course for the sake of another... observing, serving and protecting a mate!

Gender-specific protection! Men and women have “tanks” that need to be constantly monitored for fullness! **Hers, like a gas tank, needs to be filled!** She needs to know she’s loved/valued/ supported/ trusted/secure... She needs you to understand her love language and to speak it fluently!

When her tank is low/light starts blinking... Disinterested/tired/disengaged! When empty, susceptible, at risk! Perceives as being rejected/avidity risk! Predator seeking whom he may devour!

Finding out what fills her tank and keeping it filled insures her safety from predators, her energy, interest and creativity to engage her husband!

His tank is more like the boiler of a steam engine, needs to be “in zone!” Pressuring up is different man to man, age to age... But research points to *full* refraction/ recovery within 72 hrs. for most men!

When the tank is getting too pressurized... Making remarks/pawing at the ground! When tank is about to explode... Sensing rejection, hyper sensitive/ brutish/even angry... Most at risk to fe-lions, stalking and killing for the Lion!

Keeping his tank under halfway-to-full will keep him running strong, safe and attentive to your emotional and physical needs!

In both cases, husbands and wives need to be protected by their mates on this sexualized battleground! In neither case, does our lack of protection excuse bad choices/behavior... but prevention is more desirable than needing a cure!

Avidity... In this case, men and women are the same! Either will fall for avidity when they have no satisfaction in their marriage... We were created to feel connected... We were created to be satisfied... And if we are not finding it in our marriage we will look elsewhere to feel right about ourselves! ***If you believe the “two made one” design of God, avidity is your signal something is going wrong! (BOTH PARTIES)***

Avidity... 1. An ardent desire or craving; eagerness. 2. Keen interest or enthusiasm for something/in someone. Rapacity: voracious thirst, hunger; avarice: greed; desire: eagerness, zeal, willingness... Biblically: epithumeo 24x: Something we develop a serious “over-longing” (lust) for, to do, be part of, at the expense of other relationships, tasks, needs, or desires... something to covet, desire, would *fain* and *feign* over!

This is basically a “sub-culture” challenge to the culture of marriage often disguised as a hobby, special interest, or recreational pursuit! More than a simple distraction, avidity is a pursuit that has taken on a “life of its own” and seeks to numb, to separate and substitute! The acid test of its growth and grip is simply: “Will you alter your course away from it for the sake of another?”

Avidity comes in many forms... People: kids, friendships, propinquitous relationships... Things: sports, gaming (paper, plastic, electronic), hunting/fishing, collecting, picking, hobby-horse busi(y)ness, TV, music... whatever... If it takes time away from your marriage you have to deal with it! And it has to be your mate (or kids, or close friends) who examines and determines if it does... Must be free to speak from the heart...

If it doesn’t do anything to build your marriage you need to deal with it! And it can’t be the “if momma’s happy, everybody’s happy” argument! Sounds too much like, “let me do what I want, and you do what I want you to, to make me happy... and it will be good!” That’s sounds way too much like the beginning of Randian ethics

(egoism)... “I” am “my” best for the world around “me” when “I” do the best for “me!” That is far from “love that alters its course for the sake of others...”

If you can't take your eyes off it, if you can't stop doing it, if your heart is always on it... even when your mate is present, you are engaged in avidity (idol) warfare! God deals with this all the time with us... and He knows the struggle identified by “with their lips they draw near but their heart is far from Me!”

Crash the “affair...” alter your course... align with the two-made-one principle... and begin to know what marriage, and ministry, was meant to be!