

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 6: "Church Marriages!"
Slide Notations

Kingdom Fullness! Five hindrances to having it all!

1. "Money, money, money, money... money!" "No servant can have two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and riches!" –**Jesus, Lk 16.13** "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and He will add all these things unto you..." **Mt6.33** "Those that strive to be rich fall into temptation then its snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in ruin and losses. For the love of money is the root of all evil which while coveting after men have strayed from faith and pierced themselves thru with many sorrows! **1Tim 5.9,10**

2. No true intimacy with God! (Major/Major) "In Christ we have boldness and access to God with confidence by His faith... to comprehend and know with all saints the full dimension of the love of Christ – which is beyond simple human knowledge – so that we can be filled with the fullness of God!" **Eph 3.12-18**

3. Husband/Wife relationship broken! Today's topic!

Future Sessions: 4. Next gen's failing! 5. Friends who don't know how to be!

As society submerges into sinful darkness and people become more frightened and confused... They will need people, who are running on the fullness of God's kingdom! We cannot give them what we don't have so if our fullness is cut off by broken marriages we must fix them!

30 years of research! For couples marrying today, 40-50% will divorce or separate! 400:1000 v 3:1000 Slightly lower if: marry after 21; college grads; religiously committed! 1mil+ children yr/experience divorce! Divorce has become widely accepted, even planned for... *Acceptance has made it more tempting!*

30 years of research! Most of the marriages ending in divorce today have average levels of happiness and conflict! Not deeply troubled/abusive... Most marriages ending are marriages that are "good enough" but no one is working to make them the best they can be! *Most divorce because they are not happy!*

30 years of research! Those who were unhappy but stayed together were more likely to be happy five yrs later than those who divorced! Married people are more likely to recover from traumatic diagnosis than divorcees... Life expectancy for divorcees are lower married people... *indicating long term emotional and physical affects...!*

30 years of research! People who think divorce brings end to trouble/fighting carry mess into 2nd marriage bringing more trouble/fighting. 2nd marriages have much higher failure rate! *Once you have run from problems, our enemy knows your threshold! Divorced parents also suffer in relationships with kids!*

30 years of research! Myth: "If parents are unhappy, kids are unhappy, so, what's good for mom and dad is good for the kids too!" Kids expect adults to work thru! Should be competent! Meet needs of kids! Divorce shatters basic safety/belief: that's why kids resent/distrust both parents! Kids put at risk: lower grades, juvenile crime, poverty, drug, alcohol, sex abuse, sickness, distress, *world view changes!*

Husbands and Wives... Are the foundation of relationship and ministry on the earth! Bible opens w/marriage of man/woman and ends w/wedding reception party! The marriage relationships must be healthy and in order! Adam & Eve, perfect 1st couple, took God off the throne and ended up cursed, separated FROM HIM and fullness!

Their failure demonstrated, for all men for all time, the integral role/God centered marriages! Their failure affected the flow of God's intended fullness to all mankind... And it took "another Adam" to bring us back on line... thru faith!

Husbands and Wives... In the Church, are in Crisis today... Sexualizing culture around us makes it easy to compromise our promises... Don't "feel" like being married... Moral integrity begins to tear... Rips open our families... Rends our national strength... The fullness that we need so much, escapes us!

Church Marriages! (Not Church Weddings... but The Church [you and me] Marriages!

1. Understand the created purpose!

"Let us make man in our image...and let them have dominion over everything we have created... and God created (bara: activity reserved for God) them male and female and said, *be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion...*" **G1.26ff**

"Then God formed (yatsar: squeezed) man of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him and he became a living soul... God planted a garden in Eden and put the man there to dress and keep it, giving him explicit *instructions for their partnership*... then God said, *he is only part one, I will make his counter-part*... and God made (banah: crafted) the woman, brought her to the man and Adam said, "WOW WOW WOW! She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" and he named her "isha" for she came from "ish." For this reason a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife *and they become one flesh!* **G2.7-25**

The Purpose... Was to take two parts, make them a one flesh partner with God to rule and reign over His creation! Reigning strategy: break up the marriage, break the purpose, break up the rule! Must see God's purpose, the need to reestablish His order in our marriages and work toward complete restoration!

2. Understand the depth of promise!

"From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this cause will a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two will be one, so they are no longer two but one. What (two parts) God has put together let no one take apart (turn back into two parts)!" **Mk 10.6-10**

"I say unto you, Whosoever puts away his wife, except it be for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery: and whoso marries her which is put away commits adultery." –**Jesus, Mt 19.6**

"I say unto you, whoever divorces for reasons other than adultery and marries again commits adultery and whoever marries the divorced mate commits adultery too!" –**Jesus, Mt 19.6**

Divorce for any reason other than fornication with another is adultery... and a sin we spread around with others!

Good news: sins have been forgiven, truth breaks the grip of sin, God's Word washes us clean!

The Promise... "I am married to you now and you alone... til death do we part!" That means that the word, threat of, or thoughts of "divorce," outside of adultery, should be stripped from our lips and minds! Why did you divorce? Adultery! OK! Why did you divorce? Unhappy, bored, til struggles, til

money ran out, til kids moved out, til arguments I could not win... Uh Uh! ***Our promises to one another include the process of upkeep, refinement and growth!***

3. Understand the process!

“See that you walk circumspectly: heedful of circumstances and consequences, not as fools but wisely redeeming the time for the days are evil... Submit yourselves to one another in the fear of God: wives submitting to your own husbands as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife like Jesus is the head of the church, so as the church is subject to Him let wives be to their husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it to sanctify & cleanse it w/the washing of the water of the Word, to present it to Himself glorious, w/o spot, or wrinkle... so that it would be holy & w/o blemishes. So should men love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. No man ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it even like the Lord does His church! This is the reason a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two parts become one part... this is that mystery of Christ’s love for the church and the love you are to have for your wives as they love and respect you! **E5.15-33**

The Process... Both man and woman need maturing... Both are subject to temptations to not mature but to serve themselves... All of us have apples to contend with! “Don’t eat, don’t look, don’t touch...! But we should be there for each other!

Love, honor, respect, Word, washing, helping, completing, not complaining, never threatening... Your marriage has a purpose, you have promises to keep and a process to engage for the fullness you want!