

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 8: "The Leap of Faith for Marriages!"
Slide Notations

We've been talking about having kingdom-of-God fullness in our lives... Recognize there are hindrances, five major ones, to having it...

Five Major Hindrances...

Money on the throne! **Lk 16.13 Mt6.33 1Tim 5.9,10**

Not really knowing God! **Eph 3.12-18**

Marriages that don't work! **Gen 1.26 & 2.7-25 E5.15-35**

Kids who don't see the Kingdom!

Friends who don't know how to be!

Marriage: two people, made one, partnered w/God to rule His kingdom!

Husbands and Wives... Are the beginning and end of all relationships and ministry on the earth! **G1/2 Rev 19** Are the target of our enemy and his nothing-but-sub-culture machines! If marriages are in order, there is order in the kingdom we have been given to rule! Devil hates the very thought... It's why there is so much intimidation toward Christians running for the gold!

In our Quest... *We went back to the purpose! "Two made one to rule with God!" We examined our promises! "Being joined together in God as one, we will let nothing make the "one" two again!" We understood marriage to be a commitment to a process! "A lifetime commitment of upkeep, refinement and growth!"*

Three rules of process... *We remove the thought, word, threat, or use of divorce from our minds!*
"3rd option" for conflict resolution/One... *We do not hit, bully, bloody one another in conflictive moments! Stop working yourself over and save your combat "energies" for your real enemy! We stop fighting about the things God is not hot about! 95% fighting; 100% juvenile lusts!*

The right fight... In preparation to fight our enemy (**E6**), we should be standing side-by-side... "Men should love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself! For no man ever hated his own flesh but nourishes it and loves it just like the Lord does His church – and we are members of His body, His flesh, His bones – and this is why the man is joined to his wife and the two become one flesh!" **E5.28-32**

Ephesians 5.29 "No man ever hated his own flesh..." Adversarial language! Two at war! Either part ripping into the "one" is damaging the "one" they are part of! And frustrating the will/work of "THE ONE" who formed and made them one! "And where do wars in you come from? From your intra/inter-personal lusts!" **Jm4** "make no provision to fulfill/lusts" **R13.14** "flee juvenile over-longings." **2T2.22**

Ephesians 5.29 "but nourishes and loves it..." Feed it constantly! Regularly/best possible! When it's at risk, we protect it! When it's sick, we strengthen it! When it's hurt, we heal it! When it's broken, we fix it! When it's cold, we warm it! When it's hot, we cool it down! What it lacks, we "die" for!

Before we take a leap... *Want to ask some very important questions! (Clip... Clip Notes...*

World is shot up/bleeding out... Can't save others if we are dead... Time to ask, "what do I believe?"

Only the penitent/humble will pass! Everybody is watching! Impossible! No one can do this! Requires a leap of faith/prove worth! Must hurry! Must believe! Book says jump? Path already there!)

Questions!

1. What do we honestly believe about Bible truth...? Desirable? Some-Possible? Impossible?
2. Do we genuinely believe Jesus? The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Luke 18.27
3. If we believe all things are possible w/God, what is the reason we have settled w/worldly sub-culture norms for our marriages?
4. Do we honestly believe we can have marriages that look like Jesus "marriage" to the Church? Wives submitting to husbands like Church does to Jesus? Husbands loving their wives like Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself for it? Cleansing/transform'g her by the Word? Keeping her from stains/blemishes/ defects? Loving her as his own flesh...
5. Are you willing to take a leap of faith? Stepping out into the unknown if it means God's fullness for your marriage and life?
6. Do we understand that if we don't bring our marriages to fullness, we will never know fullness – only half-ness – because we two are one flesh?
7. Are we willing to pay the price, go the distance, do the diligence for fullness?
8. Why do we call military personnel who train hard and hold themselves to higher standards of life, Special Forces?
9. Why do we call athletes who sacrifice daily norms to practice and hone their skills for a future day, Olympians...
10. Why do we call men/women who apply themselves to learning, Genius's?
11. Why do we call all-out musicians/singers Maestro's/Virtuoso's /Prodigies/Stars?
12. Why then do we call Christians who strive for the fullness of God, unrealistic, fanatics, crazies and cultists?

Last Question: 13. When the safety record billboard says, "1,234 days without an accident" and then there is one... What do we do next? A. Shoot the record breaker? B. Close the plant? C. Keep working/throw out safety reg's? D. SIMPLY START OVER AGAIN WITH EVERYONE'S HEIGHTENED AWARENESS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL? Quality of life!

Are you willing to pay the price, wear the tags and start again, to press for God's plans for your marriage?

Ephesians 5.30 "and we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones..." No man ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and loves it, even as the Lord does His Church: for we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones..." *Elevates the quest to a whole new level!*
Provides information, understanding and resource far beyond our natural selves! *"These things we do... for we are membered in Him, and what He is "we" is – body, goal and strength!"*

In every H/W conflict, there is the "third option," God's ways, and the power to engage it!

Proving the Pudding! "You can only know it's good pudding, if you eat it!" In 29 years of marriage Ann and I have had hundreds of conflicting moments and perspectives...Never yelled, used bad language, been negatively physical, hit stuff, stormed out, thought or spoke divorce...

Is it because...? I'm always right & she always admits it? We are really good and perfect people? After all... we are "pastors!" [1C1.25 (moros, strengthless, ignoble, least esteemed +) 2C11.28 (so no flesh can glory!) J8.32 ☺!] So life-less, boring, whooped, just nothing to get excited about anymore? So old we can't muster the energy to fight, if there was anything left to fight over?

Our reality! Ten years apart in age... Completely different backgrounds... Processor v. contemplator... Personalities are really different... Opposites in love language... Spiritual gifts opposites... *Perfect for one another...* **Perfect joining two unique/individual parts for one complete part-ner for God to rule in our world!**

God's idea of "oneness" is not sameness, but added together completion!

It is because... *We met, while both pursuing the fullness of God for our lives! Serious about His word/living it out! We believe that where there is envy and strife there is every evil work! **Jam 3.16** We understand how our enemy works and we are not willing to let him in! When we do confront eternal issues we are willing to acquiesce to God and die to self regarding the outworking of it!*

Wednesday night... set-up for the perfect storm! Asked Ann to go shopping w/Alex & Lisa Friday/photo shoot. Plans changed: I couldn't go, needed her! Said she would... after 4:30... "Won't be enough time, need to flex your schedule for about an eight hour trip..." She felt pressed: "What I have to do is just as important as what you have to do!" *Dynamics in the air for confrontation...* And I went silent...! (could hear the doors of my house rattling, enemy hoping this was going to be the moment of failure so he could come in and take a bite out of my wife and daughter – NO THANKS!) [When one is hot, for whatever the reason, one is there to cool them down!]

Asides: As it turned out, plans changed for Alex and Lisa and they didn't need our help. So, if we had argued, it would have all been for the pleasure of the enemy... and that's what all arguing is about if it's not an argument for things God would argue for!

In the end... Do you believe that we/you can love one another like Jesus/Church loves? **E5** If you have blown it you only need to start fresh, today! Don't kill the record breaker/shut down! The walkway is there, are you willing to take a leap of faith for marital fullness? All it requires is knowing the purpose, making the promise and embracing the process...