

GODLY MARRIAGES

FAMILY AND MINISTRY SERIES PART V

*"Beareth all things, believeth all things,
hopeth all things, endureth all things."*

~ 1 Corinthians 13:7

1. Why Marriage

- a. Marriage is blasted as anachronistic, oppressive, hopeless, a joke. (God forbid)
- b. Marriage is...
 - i. Good, honorable – Prov 18:22, Heb 13:4
 - ii. God's will for the home & family – Gen 2:24
 - iii. Where the relationship between Christ & church is practiced/pictured – Eph 5:32
- c. The mystery ministry cannot be done well w/o learning the lessons of marriage.

2. Why Marriages Fail

- a. Marriage works, people don't.
- b. Marriage is a love juicer – you will be pressed. Don't be a hard nut.
 - i. "Instead of finding the right person, focus on being the right person."
 - ii. Ever since Gen 3 marriage = two (sinners) shall be one flesh.
 - iii. Sin, pride, selfishness, bitterness, works of the flesh make it hard – Gal 5:19
 - iv. You must look to love (not looking for love): give & serve, not take & demand
- c. *Marriage myths that end in divorce* → "you complete me"; "you must earn my love/respect/honor"; I can change them; the person I marry will not change; our love will never end; happy ever after; I need the right person to match me; marriage is 50/50
- d. Do not be deceived, marriages fail for spiritual reasons – 1Cor 15:33, Gal 5:1-4, 13-18, 24

3. Godly Marriages

- a. Godliness is not every day a holiday, happy, hugs, never disagreeing, disappointing
- b. What makes a marriage godly? Do you think like God toward the other or not – Rom 5:8
 - i. Godliness is 1 Tim 3:16 → The cross, Christ in you, you in Christ.
 - ii. Godliness is Eph 5:25-32 → Sacrifice for the other to be who Christ made them
 - iii. Without Christ marriage is two ungodly people, with Christ you have godliness
- c. (Must the husband be more spiritual? No! Lead by prioritizing, initiate, exhort, engage)
- d. Charity describes marriages, too → 1 Cor 13:4-7 (help, hold, hope, hurt) – 1 Tim 1:5

4. Ministry in Your Marriage

- a. Marriage is your first ministry. Learn to minister to your spouse or stop pretending.
- b. There needs to be time spent in marriage for prayer and study.
- c. Ability for two to be one comes from learning to be members of one body under Christ
- d. The result of mutual nourishment from the word is to be "knit together" – Col 2:19
- e. Love God more than your spouse, kids, self – Col 1:18, 2 Cor 5:14-15, Eph 3:17-19
- f. Take care of yourself first, then the relationship benefits – 1 Tim 4:16
- g. Expect the best (old man is dead) Rom 6:6-12; be ready for the worst (grace) Rom 5:20
- h. Forgive and forbear one another – Eph 4:2-3, 4:22-32
- i. Don't demean, discourage, anger, put down – build up (edify) instead – 1 Cor 14:12
- j. Put on the new man daily – Col 3:8-17 and be thankful for one another.