

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? PART IV

OCTOBER 24-25, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- Marriage reflects God's relationship with us more than any other. He calls the church His bride.
- Marriage can teach you to serve or cause you to demand others to serve you.

I. LEARNING TO SERVE

- The Bible teaches us to give ourselves away...to God first then to others.
- Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."
- Marriage is the school of servanthood.
- But some of us expect others to do all the servicing.
- And us all the receiving.
- Marriage is all about serving each other.
- It is the difference between a covenant and a contract.
- A contract limits my responsibility and protects my rights.
- A covenant says that you lose your rights and assume responsibilities.

II. ACCEPTING INFLUENCE

- We cannot serve each other unless we open up to each others influence.

- Ephesians 5:21, "And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."
- You have got to figure out to have a marriage that thrives you have to share the driver's seat.
- When a man is not willing to listen to his wife his marriage has a 81% chance of failure.
- Accepting influence provides the foundation for compromise and this is what makes relationships work.
- Compromise is about accepting influence.

III. IT IS TOUGH TO GROW UP

- Serving others forces me to grow up.
- I cannot love my family as I am supposed to when I am asking them to serve me.
- I grow up when I serve my family and model for them Jesus' life, but it is worth it!
- I Corinthians 13:4-11 - "Love...does not seek its own"
- Paul in verse 11, "I did away with childish things..."
- The only way we can grow is to do away with childish things.
- Your spiritual life depends on you giving yourself away.

CLOSE

- We are talking about investment into eternity here.
- Make changes now not later...it won't happen later
- Don't put off to tomorrow what you can and should do today!