

Intimacy in Marriage

Intimacy in Marriage is fundamental to reaching cities for Christ.

I. God Loves Marriages

- A. God Opened the Bible with a marriage.
- B. Jesus' first miracles was at a wedding ceremony.
- C. The Bible closes with a wedding (Christ and the Church).

II. The devil hates marriage

- A. Satan will do everything in his power to destroy marriages.
- B. He loves it when Christian couples lose intimacy and become “good examples of bad marriages.”

III. God's plan for marriage

- A. Your spouse is a personal, tailor made gift from God.

When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go out with the army nor be charged with any duty; he shall be free at home one year and shall give happiness to his wife whom he has taken. (Deut. 24.5)

- B. God made the husband responsible for making the wife happy.
- C. The first year of marriage is crucial because:

- 1. Couples must bare their souls to one another.
- 2. The sexual relationship (to know) is the physical manifestation of a spiritual, soul intercourse.
- 3. Men and women both face many insecurities during the first year of marriage and need to be affirmed.

- D. God gives two different commands to husbands and wives.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her

glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (Eph. 5:25-27)

1. God's command to husband: "Love your wife and Christ loves the Church."

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ² as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. (1 Pet. 3:1-2)

2. God's command to the wife: "Honor your husband."

3. These two different commands contain the same promise. If one person obeys the command, the other will be changed for the better.

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (Eph. 5:17-21)

IV. God's best for marriage requires communion with Him

A. Be filled daily with the Holy Spirit so you can love your spouse.

1. Every Bible passage that deals with spiritual warfare is set in the context of broken relationships

2. It is impossible to picture marriage outside of the context of spiritual warfare.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison,... ²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (1 Pet. 3:18,19,22)

B. Christ is in the position of supreme authority.

1. Don't get mad at your spouse, get mad at the devil.

2. The devil can do nothing unless we give him room to act.

- C. God instructs women to honor their husbands.**
 - 1. Respect ministers to a man's soul like nothing else.**
 - 2. A man likes to be built up, especially in the areas of protecting and providing for his wife.**

V. Summary

We need to unite against Satan in our marriages by loving and honoring one another. If we don't have our act together in the most intimate relationship in life --marriage --we will be sabotaged trying to reach out to a broken and hurting world.

VI. Personal Application

A. What is God saying to me through this lesson?

B. What action do I need to take?

C. What action can I take immediately?