

I have a friend who... *is stuck in a mediocre marriage*

June 13-14, 2009

God has the "Master Plan" for marriage.

- *"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone'."*
Genesis chapter 2, verse 18 (4)
- *"This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."* Genesis chapter 2, verse 24 (4)
- Since God designed the marriage relationship, then He is my expert source of help.
- Every thriving marriage has received help beyond itself.
- Talk about what God desires for your marriage.

"So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself and the wife must respect her husband."

Ephesians chapter 5, verse 33 (898)

- *Men Desire Respect*
- *Woman Desire Love*

For instance: *If men were forced to choose one of the following negative experiences which would they prefer to endure?*

- a) *To be left alone and unloved in the world- (74%) OR*
- b) *To feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone- (26%)*

Source- LOVE & RESPECT- Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

"For wives this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything."

Ephesians chapter 5, verses 22-24 (898)

- *"Submit"- very unpopular but very powerful*
- *Wives are to respect their husbands' God-given-responsibility.*
- *"as to the Lord"- you will only go as far in your marriage as you go with God.*
- *There are times when a wife "must obey God rather than human authority." Acts 5:29*

"And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ". Ephesians chapter 5, verse 21 (898)

Check List For Wives

- ✓ Don't compare your marriage to the marriages of others.
- ✓ Don't wait for your husband to change before you begin obeying God.
- ✓ Stop trying to control your husband! Fight the urge to lead.
- ✓ If you look to your husband to meet your deepest needs - you will be frustrated.
- ✓ It is only in Jesus Christ that you will find true fulfillment.
- ✓ Determine to understand what it means to respect your husband.
- ✓ You can't change your husband, so pray for him and depend on God.
- ✓ Talk to godly women who have been married longer than you.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs chapter 3, verse 5-6 (482)

“For husbands, this means love your wives just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife is actually showing love for himself.”

Ephesians chapter 5, verses 25-28 (898)

- “love your wives just as Christ loved the church”
- Sacrificial, unselfish and unconditional.
- It’s purposeful - to make her the person God desires.
- It’s perpetual - it’s constant and should never end.
- It requires humility.

“In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.” 1 Peter chapter 3, verse 7 (936)

- Men of honor love their wives.
- God gives husbands the responsibility and ability to protect & provide.
- God is serious about this! *“so your prayers will not be hindered”*
- Understand your wife’s love language.

Check List for Husbands

- ✓ Lead!
- ✓ Treasure your marriage. *“where your treasure is there your heart will be also”* Matt 6
- ✓ Take time to listen; fight the urge to just start fixing things.
- ✓ Learn to say... *“I am sorry, will you forgive me?”* And mean it!
- ✓ Deal with your sin and pursue Jesus.
- ✓ Be gentle but be intentional in your leadership - set the tone in your home.
- ✓ Talk to a godly man who has been married longer than you.
- ✓ Realize that God’s not asking you to be more like a woman just more like Jesus.
- ✓ Determine to understand what it means to love your wife.
- ✓ You can’t change your wife so pray for her and depend on God.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” Proverbs chapter 3, verse 5-6 (482)

There is hope for those of you in failing marriages.

“Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him.” Psalm chapter 62, verse 5 (440)

- ❖ Don’t give up- All things are possible with God!
- ❖ Don’t give in - to sin, resentment or Satan.
- ❖ Give God your best.
- ❖ Seek support through counseling and accountability.

Next Week: Fathers Day Services