

# **THE BIBLICAL MEANING OF MARRIAGE**

## *Part 8: Dealing With Some Problems in Marriage*

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. God's Intention**

1. God's intention is that our marriage relationship be our closest, dearest, deepest, most life-changing friendship on earth.
2. In this series I really have addressed all human friendships and relationships.

#### **B. A Healthy Marriage**

1. The **secret** of a healthy marriage: Treat each other "as Christ (treats) the Church when He gave Himself up for her".
2. The **foundation** of a healthy marriage: Mutual submission.
3. The **heart** of a healthy marriage: Love as the Bible defines it.
  - The act of directing our resources at meeting the needs of another – our time, energy, money, passion, our selves.
4. The **mission** of a healthy marriage: That it become a "sanctifying friendships".
5. **Tools** for a healthy marriage: The tool of truth; the tool of grace.
6. **Gender roles** in a healthy marriage:
  - a) Our real gender and role differences originate with God, not with culture.
  - b) Husbands - love your wife sacrificially, lead her as a servant leader, nurture her, cherish her.
  - c) Wives - allow him to exercise his God-given role as marital leader, respect your husband.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **A. The Problem of Decision-Making and Leadership**

1. The dilemma:
2. The answer:

#### **B. The Problem of Differing Worldviews**

1. **First principle:** There are no easy, simple answers: 1 Tim. 2:4, 1 Tim. 4:10, 1 Thess. 4:3:
2. **Second principle:** If you're a Christian, do not marry someone who is not: 2 Cor. 6:14:
3. **Third principle:** No married person is to ever give their spouse unconditional obedience: Acts 5:29, Eph. 5:24:

4. **Fourth principle:** We are to never encourage, enable, participate in, aid someone else's sin:  
Num. 24-25, Deut. 13:6:
- a) **Application #1:** If our spouse asks us to participate in or approve of or even stand by silently and say nothing when sin is practiced, refuse to do so, as God commanded Israel.
  - b) **Application #2:** No spouse is told in Scripture to tolerate physical or verbal violence:
    - There's no biblical mandate to allow or enable or participate in or tolerate such sin.
  - c) **Application #3:** What to do if our spouse teaches untruth or allows sin in our home:
    - (1) **First:** Make sure the thing you object to is truly unbiblical:
    - (2) **Second:** If a thing is truly unbiblical, we are to resist it, to try to end it, to remove it if we possibly can.
    - (3) **Third:** "Speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15); To your children: "I love your daddy/mom, and I want you to love them too, but that's not what the Bible says, the Bible says \_\_\_\_\_, and I want to try to live according to the Bible and to teach you to do so."
    - (4) **Fourth:** Try to lovingly speak truth to your spouse and explain that encouraging behavior that violates God's Word will hurt the child.
5. **Fifth principle:** The Bible never calls on anyone of either gender to be a kowtowing, suppressed, repressed, compliant doormat in marriage:
- a) Both partners have opinions, both have contributions worth making, both have personalities that that God gave them that are to show forth in marriage and to contribute to the marriage.
  - b) God would never give those gifts and then expect them to be repressed and suppressed and ignored and left unused.
  - c) Remember "A fit helper" in Gen. 2: Someone who is designed equally but with the very differences needed to together form a complete whole.
  - d) If one spouse or the other is suppressed from contributing their talents and wisdom and thinking to the marriage, there's no way the marriage partnership can be whole or healthy: half of what God has provided in the marriage is eliminated, and that's foolish.
6. **Sixth principle:** We can only control and change yourself:
- a) Fulfilling your role in marriage is possible whether or not your spouse chooses to fulfill theirs.
  - b) Focus on growing your own holiness and Christlikeness regardless of what anyone else chooses to do or not do.