

8/2/2009
“*Marriage*”

Marriage goes all the way back to the beginning and in Genesis 2:24 the Bible tells us, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Jesus uses this verse with the Pharisees and their questions on divorce when He tells them, “So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” Matthew 19:6. Today we get in the mindset that, “Well my wife did this, so I am going to do _____. Or my husband did that, so I am going to do _____. So many times we worry so much about evening the score that we forget what the Lord’s roles and responsibilities for each of us are. He has called the men to be sacrificial. Loving, leaders and He has called the women to be submitting, helpers. A great example of this can be found in 1 Peter 3:1-7 where Peter goes over the things that both the man and the woman should do.

Peter tells the wife that she needs to be submissive to her own husband, so that by her actions or behavior in the marriage she can win over her husband even if he is an unbeliever. Next, he tells the wives that the outward person is not the most important, but it is the inward woman, the, “Hidden person of the heart... a gentle and quiet spirit which is very precious in the sight of God” (v.4). The Lord is looking at what is going on inside.

Peter tells the husband that we need to dwell with our wives and give honor to them. I love what Dr. Arnold says about this, “This is the continuous duty of the husband... The wife is to be loved into subjection not forced into subjection.” Men we are to love and honor our wives and be the sacrificial leader that God calls us to be and the natural response to that is our wives will follow us as we follow the Lord.

This last part in 1 Peter tells us, “That our prayers may not be hindered” (v.7). This is huge as Peter is basically telling us that if we are not living out a Godly marriage then our prayer life is hindered. Marriage today is under attack and we see that there is almost no difference in the divorce rate between the world and the church. The challenge this week is *not* to look at your spouse and see all of their flaws and ask them to change, but to look at yourself and see where you have missed the mark and then ask the Lord to help you to change. Then every night before you go to sleep pray with each other and see what the Lord will do in your marriage.

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