

WHAT DOES A GODLY MARRIAGE LOOK LIKE?

1 Peter 3:7

Marriage is under attack all around us. It is not easy being married. Many just don't marry today. *"In 1960, 82 percent of Americans between 25 and 34 were married. Even as late as 2000, 55 percent were. In 2013, for the first time, a majority of that age bloc had never married, and the downward trend shows no sign of stopping...a 2014 Pew report predicts that 'today's young adults will experience the lowest marriage rate in modern history.'*" Marriage has been redefined and so is gender. *"the BC Supreme Court ordered in February that 14-year-old Maxine* receive testosterone injections without parental consent. Accordingly, Maxine began regular injections at the BC Children's Hospital over the last two months."* Now the *"father is being charged for "family violence" by the British Columbia Supreme Court for refusing to affirm his daughter's new self-identity as a boy. As if that weren't enough, the Court also ordered the father's arrest in the event that he ever in the future refers to his daughter as, well, his daughter."* – The Federalist, April 29, 2019. We as believers should display the beauty of godly marriages. What does a godly marriage look like?

1.A GODLY MARRIAGE MEANS LIVING IN AN UNDERSTANDING WAY

- You know and understand your own need of grace. *"If I am going to be of any help to my spouse I need to take care of my own soul first."* – Jason Helopoulos. I need grace first and to seek holiness myself first before I point the finger at my spouse – Matthew 7:3-5. In a godly marriage each one must pursue Christ and then we can grow closer to each other.
- You know and understand that you live with our spouse through the ups and downs, joys and struggles of life. You must understand that we are all sinners. You married a sinner and your spouse married one too! We all have our faults and sins. No marriage is perfect, but it can be God-centered and happy. Learn to accept one another – Romans 15:7. Forgive each other quickly – Ephesians 4:32. Don't live angry and don't hold into grudges – Ephesians 4:25-27. Look past "small" things. Choose your "battles" carefully. Understand there are "seasons in life."
- You know and understand that in a marriage you are one flesh with your wife – Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6. Your spouse is never your enemy. We're one and on the same team. *"Let's tackle this problem together and fight sin together"* – Jason Helopoulos. Wives are our own bodies – Ephesians 5:28-30. If I injure her I am injuring myself. If I encourage her I am encouraging myself. Don't insult yourself! Understand the power of the tongue to build up or tear down - Ephesians 4:29.

2.A GODLY MARRIAGE MEANS SHOWING HONOR TO OUR WIVES

- Husbands are to treat their wives with honor. No ancient Roman or Greek writings ever said for the man to honor their wives. In the Bible the person in authority serves others – Matthew 20:25-28. The wife is the "weaker vessel" probably referring to the fact that men are generally stronger physically. She, like us, is a clay pot which can be broken and damaged.

- We are to treat our wives respectfully, lovingly, and “handle with care.” Know your spouse. Know what hurts them. Don’t purposefully ignore or offend them. Know what they enjoy. Seek to build them up. “Happy wife, happy life.” See life from their perspective. See your wife as precious in God’s sight – Ephesians 5:25-27.

3. A GODLY MARRIAGE IS FOR GLORY

- A Christian marriage is aimed at glory. We are “co-heirs” of the grace of God and eternal life. We both belong to the Lord. Our destiny is glory. Your spouse is a gift of God to help you get to glory together. We are to help one another finish the race and cross the finish line. We are to bear one another’s burdens – Galatians 6:2.
- A Christian marriage is centered on eternity – not just today. It is not just about my immediate needs, my comfort right now, etc. but what is best in light of eternity and glorifying God. Although marriage is not eternal, a godly marriage has eternal impact. Life is short and time flies quickly. Keep in mind eternity.
- A Christian marriage points to Jesus Christ. We are to image Christ. Our marriage is to picture the relationship of Christ to His bride, the church – Ephesians 5:31,32. We show Him to the world in and through our marriage relationship. The glory of God is at stake in how we love our wives.

4. A GODLY MARRIAGE IMPACTS OUR OWN SPIRITUAL LIFE

- *“Center your marriage on grace by using the means of grace” – Jason Helopoulos.* Be in God’s Word. Pray and pray together. *“The couple that prays together stays together.”* Attend church together.
- Your relationship with your spouse impacts your own relationship with God. The warning is that being out of fellowship with our wives will hinder our own prayers. You cannot be vibrant spiritually if you are not honoring your wife or not living in an understanding way with her – Matthew 5:23,24.

Concluding Applications and Encouragements:

- KEEP AT IT! Don’t give up. A God-centered marriage is worth the effort! It’s not too late. Keep planting seeds of grace. God can restore and renew. *“There may be consequences, but the Lord can restore the years the locust ate.”* – Joel 2:12-14, 24,25.
- Everyone is to honor marriage whether they are single or married – Hebrews 13:4. Honoring marriage glorifies God and is for your own good.
- Surrender each day to Christ.