

Marriage

I. If Married

- A. Happily married
- B. Unhappily married
- C. Somewhere in between

II. Happily married

- A. Mutual respect
- B. Mutual trust
- C. Mutual goals/vision
- D. Mutual valuation of God and His Word and His position in your life
- E. Notice I didn't start with love

1. Love is a fruit of all of these things

F. First fall in love, it isn't true love

- 1. It is the height of self love
- 2. We are absolutely in love with how they make us feel about ourselves
 - a) If started out the way it ends up, we'd never have married them

G. Respect, trust, common goal/vision, becoming one in Spirit - develops over time

H. Gift of God

III. Unhappily married

A. One or all of these elements is missing

- 1. Don't respect
- 2. Don't trust
- 3. Don't have common goals/visions
- 4. One or both do not have the proper valuation of God

B. Usually this is not an all or nothing condition - Areas

- 1. We don't respect/trust/etc. in certain areas

C. This leads us to the third condition

IV. Somewhere in between

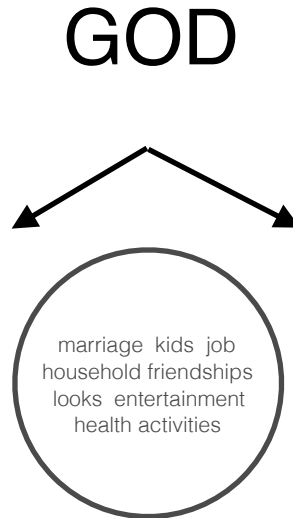
- A. Not 100% bust but areas
- B. A somewhere in the middle can quickly move to an unhappy

V. What to do

- A. Don't really need to teach to the happily married
- B. If you are unhappily married or somewhere in the middle
 - 1. Goal is to get better
 - 2. Problem is - only hold one end of the stick
 - 3. Can't control or make the other person do anything or be anything
- C. Understand right up front what you have
 - 1. Yourself
 - 2. God
- D. We often think - I need him to change and then we can get better
 - 1. He may in fact need to change
 - 2. Hanging destiny on the one thing you cannot do anything about - ploy of Satan
 - 3. Focus on the thing you can control
 - a) yourself
- E. Core element - in light of what you can do, not what you cannot
 - 1. Respect
 - 2. Trust
 - 3. Common goal/vision
 - 4. Valuation of God
- F. I'm going to do a flip in the order of discussion at this point
 - 1. Valuation of God is the number one element in restoration and healing
- G. Valuation of God - yourself
 - 1. Nothing will ever be as it should be until God holds proper place in your soul.
 - 2. Your life will never have the mark of greatness as God is merely a part of it.
 - 3. God must be your life
 - a) Most of our lives look like this:



b) But in order for us to live abundant and free we need to look like this:



c) God has to be number one

(1) The passion that drives us must be our devotion to God

Deuteronomy 6:5, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 10:12, “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Joshua 22:5, “Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Mark 12:30, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

- d) The life we are called to is a supernatural life
- e) To live supernaturally means Christ lives in us.
- f) To have this life means that we lay ourselves down and let God have his way
- g) If we ask Him, He will work this in us

Deuteronomy 30:6, “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

- h) The question is...Are we content? or Do we want Him to?
- i) Sometimes we want the benefits without the cost.
- j) Sometimes we want God to fix things for us but we don't want His control.

Philippians 2:21, “For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

- k) God won't do it this way, He is a jealous God, He wants our hearts.

H. Assessment

1. How can we know if we love God with all of our heart, soul, and might?
2. We can fool ourselves. We can say, “I'm serving God all the time,” but not love Him.
3. The Bible tells us our hearts are deceitful.

Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

4. We can't without prayer and revelation from the Spirit properly judge our own hearts.

5. But we can look at our fruit.

Matthew 12:33, *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”*

Luke 6:43-45, *“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”*

6. We can measure ourselves - judge ourselves by the Word not our feelings

1 Corinthians 11:30-32, *“That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.”*

Romans 12:3, *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”*

I. Assess our fruit - Form

1. Core areas - 4 M's

a) Mind

- (1) What am I thinking about?
- (2) With which emotions am I most familiar?

b) Motion

- (1) What am I doing?
- (2) How do I spend my time?

c) Means

- (1) What do I consider as resources?
- (2) Where do I spend my resources?

d) Motivation

- (1) What is driving the choices I make?
- (2) What am I most passionate about?

VI. Conclusion

- A. The first step in restoration and healing in our marriage is to properly value God
- B. As we learn to love and seek God first, we place Him in His proper place
- C. This frees Him to move on our behalf in the other areas: respect, trust, vision.