

THE HEART OF MARRIAGE

Frontline Christian Church, Kerikeri-5.3.06-ekb

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Marriage is God's intention and design. He made men and women to be joined together in marriage, to bring forth godly children and to establish a family "world" of love and acceptance. *Gen 2:22-25, Mat 19:4-6, Mal 2:14-16.*

When a man and a woman choose to be married, they are choosing the way of God and **He joins them together.** *Mat 19:6, Mal 2:14,15.* And it is for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

But the problem is that we are all basically selfish people and want our own way and to please ourselves. This is as result of the "Fall of Mankind" recorded in *Gen 3.* God instituted marriage before the "Fall" and since then **we have had to overcome selfishness before marriage can work God's way.**

And Jesus is the example for us to follow. He left the throne of God and all the glory of the Godhead, to become a helpless babe in the arms of Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem. He grew up as a carpenter in Nazareth. He was a part of a big growing family. *Mat 13:55,56.* When Joseph died He took over the family business to support Mary and the family. *Mk 6:3.*

He took the place of a servant not a king. *Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Phil 2:7, Jn 13:13-17.*

He humbled Himself to serve God His Father and those around Him, out of a secure identity of who He was, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. *Phil 2:6-8, Jn 5:19-20.*

When we try and **control** others and get them to do what we want, for our benefit at their expense, we are not following Jesus way. *Lk 10:27-37, Mat 20:25,26.*

When we **refuse to forgive** others for the wrongs they do to us, and hold judgment, hard feelings and bitterness against them, we are not following Jesus way. *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 6:12-15, Mat 7:1,2, Lk 6:36,37, Jam 4:11-12.*

When we refuse to **bless them and pray** for their best interests, we are not following Jesus way. *Lk 6:27,28.*

The glue that holds relationships together, marriage for one, is obedience to Jesus' commands, and humility of serving others out of a secure identity and the leading of the Holy Spirit. By love serve one another-*Gal 5:13,14.* "We preach Christ Jesus the Lord; and our selves your servants for Jesus sake". *2Cor 4:5.*

The "obedience to Jesus' commands", is to forgive, release from judgment, give the problem to God to solve and to pray blessing on the person who has caused the hurt. (see the previous paragraph).

References that refer to "giving the problem to God to solve" are: *Matt 11:28-30, 1Pet 5:7, Ps 55:22,* and to pray blessing on the one who causes the hurt are: for example, *Acts 26:18, Colossians 1:9-11.*

The humility of serving others in love is to follow the way of Jesus. This is explained in the paragraphs starting "Jesus is the example" and "He took the place of a servant not a king".

However we cannot take the place of serving others, unless we have a secure identity of who we are in Christ. We need to know who we are in Christ and what is God's purpose for us in this life. This is our identity. Jesus was so secure in His identity in God. *Phil 2:6* for example. The Gospels are a record of Jesus running battle with the Jews on this issue. In many places Jesus is saying who He is, and the Jews are taking up stones to stone Him for blasphemy!!! For example: *John 5:18, John 8:51-59, John 10:30-39.*

We have to know our significance, (how important we are for the fulfilling of the purposes of God, in the unique slot of creation that God has chosen to put us). Our selfworth, (how much God loves us and of how precious we are to God), is very important. We are so precious to God that he was willing to come to this earth, and allow His Blood to be poured out for us, so that we could spend eternity with Him. Our security is explained in *Psalm 91* and many other places.

For fuller details on identity, significance, selfworth and security see our web site

www.pastornotes.com

Another major aspect of being able to humble ourselves to serve others in love and build secure relationships, is the necessity to be set free from rejection, insecurity, fear and emotional instability such as anger, violence, abuse, verbal and physical.

When a person experiences rejection, neglect, grief, and hurt, especially as a child, it causes insecurity, which produces fears and emotional instability such as anger and violence. When such a person faces a situation that they don't feel they can cope with, their unavoidable response is anger that arises from fears and insecurity.

As a teenager and young adult, my life was plagued by the problem of anger, that had its roots in fears, insecurity and rejection.

The more I fought it the worse it got. 1Corinthians 15:56 explains why. The more you struggle to fight sin in your own strength the stronger you make it. It is not possible to overcome sin by human effort. Trying to obey the law only makes sin stronger.

One day someone told me I did not have to be angry any more, because on the Cross, Jesus destroyed the power of sin/anger in me and set me free. The way He accomplished this, was to take me with Him into his death on the Cross and crucify the old nature of sin in me. Galatians 2:20, and especially Romans 6:6 and 11, helped me. But all of Romans 6:1-14 has a lot to say on this.

I was desperate to get free. I was 29 years old and hated this sin in me. The effects it had on my family and relationships were very destructive.

For two weeks I constantly confessed Rom 6:6, and 11, and claimed these promises of God. I praised God for setting me free 2000 years ago. I believed. I rejoiced. I spoke it out aloud all the time. After two weeks, 90% and more, of anger had been removed from my life and I was free. The power of God's Word, believed and spoken in faith, is greater than the power of sin. John 8:31,32,36. A book that helped me a lot at that time was "The Normal Christian Life" by Watchman Nee.

Successful marriage is based on a decision to take the place of a servant to your wife or husband. It requires self denial and determination to follow the way of the Lord and His example.

Take time **to talk** and share in life together.

Take time **to pray together** and confess the promises of the Lord.

Take time to **do things of mutual interest together**.

Take care of one another and support each other.

Help with the jobs that have to be done in and outside the house. Share the load: shopping, washing, vacuuming, cleaning and redecorating.

Care for the children together. Limit the away time as much as possible when the children are little so that the load is not too heavy on the primary care giver. Watch for signs of strain and overload. Make adjustments.

Discuss use of finances before major purchases are made.

Avoid going into debt. Only buy what you can afford. The borrower is the slave of the lender and the credit card rate is 18%. *Prov 22:7*. Remember David Wilkerson's message and be prepared for any financial down turns.

www.davidwilkerson.org

What if you can no longer meet the interest repayments? **Financial strain in marriage is a serious problem.**

Do not be a guarantor for another person's debts. Read the Word of God in *Prov 6:1, 22:26, 17:18*.

Stand together in the Lord. Accept differences and respect the other's view point. We see things differently.

Listen to one another, consider what the other is saying and do not feel threatened or fearful. The Lord is with you as you trust Him. Cast your concerns upon the Lord and He will work it out for the best. *Ps 55:22, 1Pet 5:7*.

Things take time to change. God works slowly but surely as we trust Him and believe His Word and promises.

Keep in the Word of the Lord and always hold onto Him. Keep praying and believing. He will hear and answer you.