



#6

Theme: Marriage

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

Verse 3: *The husband should give his wife all that he owes her as his wife. And the wife should give her husband all that she owes him as her husband.*

A Thought:

Sometime ago my wife and I attended a couple's retreat sponsored by our church. It was a wonderful way to spend a weekend. Great speakers, warm fellowship and poignant topics on marriage. Mind you it was just a few years ago that if my spouse mentioned to me about a couple's gathering I would head for the hills. I was not interested in the "gooey" stuff that take place at these marital confabs. Hey - we are happy - we got it together....why do we have to spend two days confessing our most intimate thoughts to each other. It's crazy (so I thought) and to add to the misery on the last day...the "affirmation day" looking into each other's eyes and spouting out words like: love, forgiveness, caring, honey, baby, you're the best, spiritual partner, and more endearment terms, blah, blah - you get the message. Well I did that and more.... add a few tears and a trembling voice! How pathetic is that? Blame it on God! Thank you Lord for your love and for softening my heart and for your "spiritual" slap. We know by your word that marriage is a gift from You and we should not play heady games with this coveted relationship. You know Paul means business when in the above verses he mentions not once, not twice, not three times but four times that marriage is sacred and permanent.

Now....what are your thoughts? Read and write the following verses down.

1 Corinthians 7:1-16.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Married or not - should marriage be permanent? Should divorce be on the table?
- Do you honor your wife, girlfriend, mom and other close women in your life?
- How important is it when each partner is willing to stick it out even after a heated disagreement? How important is 'grace' in the marriage?
- Is the word forgiveness just in your vocabulary or do you practice it?
- Do you listen or just hear? Are you a promise breaker?
- Pride, ignorance and or sin....are they a hinderance in your marriage?

Scriptures to read:

- Malachi 2:15-16b (take heed in your spirit)
- Ephesians 5:22-33 (the two shall become one flesh)
- Matthew 19:3-6, 7-12 (what God has joined together, let no man separate)

Quote:

Charles Swindle, Pastor, Author

"A marriage well-oiled by grace is durable, long lasting - protected against the wear and tear of friction."

Bottom Line:

I have been married for 55 years to a wonderful woman. However marital longevity does not determine a quality relationship. Throughout the many years we have had our issues and we have had to face them head on. Bluntly I suffered from pride and ignorance. At times it was tough. Except (for) our Lord hovering over us daily with his mercy and grace we are able to face each other's issue with dignity and honesty. Mind you, it wasn't all smooth sailing! We experienced some tough times. The power of prayer and the Holy Spirit were the pillars that sustained our relationship. We are blessed by our faith, His Word and the Holy Spirit the triune prerequisite of a successful marriage and relationship. Every ten years of my life brings new challenges and opportunities. One thing for sure that does not change is my love for her. Here I go again - blah, blah, blah! Gents, together with your love one read The Wife of Noble Character...Proverbs 31:10-31

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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