



#57

Theme: Marital Bliss

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21 (NIV) *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

A Thought:

Not to long ago I had an extensive conversation with a woman friend. Its been awhile since we last met. We exchange pleasantries and we talked about our families especially our children. She is very involved with her son who is in elementary school. The child is active in almost every sport and or academic activity possible. Whew! I got tired just listening. I asked how her husband was and noticeably there were deep furrows her in brow and her eyes were moist. Things were not going well in the home front. According to her account her husband is a workaholic, very involved in the child’s activities and chit-chat was not a part of his personality. I asked her if she thought he loved her...under her breath she replied, “I don’t believe he does.” I asked her if she loved him....it took awhile before she said in a somber tone...”I don’t think so.” Gents, this sad scenario is a common occurrence throughout the country and our Christian sisters are a big part of this phenomenon. Christian moms toil in and out of the home, they referee conflicts, they are encouragers and every evening they hug and tuck their love ones to bed. Meanwhile the fathers are missing in action. In my friend’s case it was not a matter of lust or outside pleasures...there was no communication between them.

Communication is of the upmost importance between spouses. Proverbs 12:18 *“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”* Other areas that cast a shadow on a marriage are adultery (a younger cutie), drugs, alcohol, television and pornography. Many gents just plain abdicate their responsibility. To put it bluntly they never grow up! (Genesis 2:20b-25a) *“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”*

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

Talk to yourself:

Tips for a blissful marriage

Don't take your love for granted.

Beware of foul words and ask for forgiveness.

Take weekly walks together. Schedule a date night.

Hold hands. Use the word love often.

Talk, converse (don't be afraid it will not hurt you).

Pray together. Ask God to be first in your life.

Scriptures to read:

Genesis 2:20b-24; Ecclesiastics 4:9-12; Proverbs 18:22; Ephesians 5:21-33;

1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 13:5, 11:3; Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2;

1 Thessalonians 5:11; James 5:16

Quote: Martin Luther, Monk, Priest, Theologian and Reformer

"There is no more lovely, friendly or charming relationship, communion or company, that a good marriage."

Bottom Line: I have espoused on many occasions to young men that marriage is not a 50/50 arrangement. If true, each spouse would meet only half way. Sometimes depending on the circumstances a healthy marriage is 70/30, 60/20 or even 100 per cent. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 directs us to common sense, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work; if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered two can defend themselves. A cord of three stands is not quickly broken."* God ties the knot. The cords will never be broken. Strength in the three strands...man, woman and God. The pop group of the 70s Spiral Staircase voiced the following love song.... *"Oh, I love you more today than yesterday; but not as much as tomorrow...I thank the Lord for love like ours that grows ever stronger and I always will be true."*

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

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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