

The Dynamic Marriage

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Servant Hearts

Humility and Honor Build an Intimate Marriage

Key Thought: Marriage Can Build in Us a Servant's Heart

Foundational Truth Phil 2:1-7 NIV

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- “For Christians ONLY!” Taking on a servant attitude is not for the faint hearted. You are a new creation, and out of that you become a servant of Christ and one another.....and of your spouse.
- Service is not about obedience, it is about transformation. You serve because you are united with Christ, comforted from his love and are in fellowship with the Spirit.
 - Then your service is directed by Him...not you
 - Then your service honors Him, not you
 - Then your service is an avenue of His love, not yours.
- The RESULT is TWO SERVANT HEARTS serving each other and all those that the Lord has called you to serve. You are building your vision and direction on a servant platform. Otherwise you: {vs. 3}
 - Serve with selfish ambition
 - Serve to with vain conceit thinking yourself better
 - Serve and expect something in return.
- Your interests....not so much
 - Interests that feed your needs despite the needs of your spouse.
 - INSTEAD: Interests that build a unified vision and purpose.
- Our attitude of pride: SEE HANDOUT
 - We are always learning how and when pride gets in the way of a humble heart and brokenness towards each other.

Adam and Wendy Ross' Wedding DVD/foot washing

Servant Heart/Humble Action John 13:1-5, 17

13 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. 2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

...17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. NIV

➤ **FOUR REASONS FOR THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS LOVE:**

1. testify his love to his disciples, v. 1,2.
 - > Our love for our spouse is expressed in our heart / action of service
 - > Serving the need> not just the idea, makes the real impact...especially if that is not your comfort zone.
2. voluntary humility and condescension, v. 3-5.
 - > humility that is voluntary is effective only when it is genuine and real, not just mustered up for the moment. If it is real it brings life and not death.
3. spiritual washing, v. 6-11.
 - > Your acts of humility coming from sitting at the feet of Jesus open a door way for the Lord to bring His love, identity and destiny into your spouse.
4. set them an example, v. 12-17.
 - > A servant heart catches the heart of others. Not a “doormat” heart, but one that is actively, aggressively, intentionally serving the needs of others.

Making It Work 1 Cor 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.NIV

- **USE THE HANDOUT**
- The essence of our love is reflected in our servant’s heart. Our love for our spouse is reflected in our humility, and our honoring of one another
- Men> will serve with a lot of action
- Women> will serve with a lot of relational connection
- Serving one another requires both. We need to know what the “master” wants to serve. The master knows he will be best served by a servant who is affirmed.
 - We need to want to hear the heart of our spouse in every season
 - We need to affirm our spouse beyond the meeting of our needs.

DO THIS AT HOME...and EVERYWHERE ELSE!

The Marriage Prayer for Him> Father I said “till death do us part” I want to mean it. Help me love You more than her and her more than anyone or anything else. Help me bring her into your presence today. Make us one. I want to cherish her, and serve her so she would love You more and we can bring You glory. Amen

The Marriage Prayer for Her> Father I said, “til death do us part- I want to mean it. Help me love You more than him and respect (love) him more than anyone else. Help me bring him into Your presence today. Make us one. I want to hear him, support him, and serve him so he would love You more and we can bring You glory. Amen.