

The Dynamic Marriage
06-26-11
Pastor Ted Bichsel

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Growing in Grace and Purpose

Key Thought: Our obedience to Christ causes maturity and vision in our marriage.

Obedience Step 1 Galatians 5:13-17

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, *serve one another in love*. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "*Love your neighbor {spouse} as yourself.*" 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you {and your marriage} will be destroyed by each other. NIV

- Knowing Christ sets us free from the trap of being a slave to our personal histories
- Our freedom to build a marriage that is Christ centered is based on the basic principle of, "loving your _____ as yourself."
- We mature (James 1:1-8) through the trials, as we CHOOSE not to bite and devour each other. Changes start as a choice> then a habit> then a life style.
- Our new freedom allows us to see beyond the walls we have built to protect ourselves from each other. Freedom to build and freedom to remove boundaries.

Obedience Step 2 Galatians 16-18

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. *They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.* 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. NIV

- "They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want".
 - Conflict is often the "flag waving" and directing us towards a tension between the flesh and the Spirit.
 - Healthy confusion opens you up to seeing God's direction in the midst of the storm.
- The desires of the flesh/the sinful nature, are there; BUT we choose to see the Holy Spirit pathway that is unfolding. KEY> UNFOLDING!
 - "We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7). God will direct our hearts
 - Choosing to listen does not mean I "get it", instead it means, "I am ready to learn and be changed."

Obedience Step 3 1 Tim 4:7-10

7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, *train yourself to be godly*. 8 For physical training is of some value, *but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come*. 9 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance 10 (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. NIV



- - Believe that God's way is the right way and that the "old way" is just that
 - The old way is comfortable and easy. It fits but is it the right way?
 - Jump into God's way and see what unfolds.
- Godliness is the filter that takes out all the "crud" that blocks our ability to see ahead.
- Godliness sets the bar for what lies ahead. Build on that vision and see the transformation of your marriage from basic to DYNAMIC!

TESTIMONY:

In a few words please ENCOURAGE the class as to how you have made choices for your marriage over this past year.

Share anything where you can say "Wow that was an answer to prayer".

Encourage others with the victory that you have experienced....or are waiting to experience!

Personally both Phyllis and I have so enjoyed the time spent with you over this last year. We have been blessed by your testimonies all throughout the year. Your heart felt encouragement and prayer is the greatest gift we could ever receive as we minister to couples.

Now you have the entire summer to see God put all the pieces together for a dynamic marriage and beyond.

Keeping Covenant

Pastor Ted and Phyllis