

REVITALIZING YOUR MARRIAGE
1 CORINTHIANS 7:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. A good marriage does not come naturally. It takes work.
2. 1 Corinthians 7 is the marriage chapter of the Bible that offers insights into ways we can improve our marriage.
3. Consider two suggestions one how to revitalize your marriage.

I. PUT EACH OTHER AHEAD OF YOURSELF

- A. **1 CORINTHIANS 7.3,4:** Husbands and wives are to “render” to each other “*the affection due*” to them.
1. In principle, we are to put the needs of our spouse ahead of our own. It is about give and take.
 2. “Render” (opheilo): “to be obligated; to owe.” We are obligated to give our spouse what they need.
- B. To revitalize your marriage, live for your spouse.
1. Christians are to always live for others putting their needs ahead of our own. (Phil. 2.3-5; Rom. 15.2,3)
 2. Why do couples fight? (James 4.1)

II. AVOID TEMPTATION

- A. **1 CORINTHIANS 7.5:** “*Do not deprive one another*”
1. What temptation does Satan put in our path? (1 Cor. 7.2).
 2. There is an exception. Give each other space to work on their relationship with God. (1 Cor. 7.5).
 3. **1 CORINTHIANS 7.5:** “*and come together again*”
- B. To revitalize your marriage, do not deprive one another, lest you open the door for temptation.
1. **1 THESSALONIANS 5.22:** “*Abstain from ever form of evil*” Avoid anything that even looks questionable.
 2. The four progressive stages of sin: Attention, Seduction, Transgression, Condemnation. (James 1.14,15).

CONCLUSION: By improving your marriage, you can be a good example and show the next generation the marriage God expects.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **MARCH 10, 2024**
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

March 10, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

THE SOURCE OF TRUE WISDOM

It is said that ignorance is bliss, yet the lack of knowledge can be a significant hindrance. God lamented that “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*” (Hos. 4.6). Yet even if one has knowledge, if he does not know how to use that knowledge then it is of no value to him. Therefore Solomon encourages his readers to “*get wisdom*” (Prov. 4.5).

The problem with wisdom is that it is not easy to find. Most believe that they already have wisdom. They consider themselves enlightened. This culture is known as being “woke,” meaning they are more enlightened than previous generations. But the wisdom they possess is not the wisdom of God, but the wisdom of the world which has no value in spiritual growth. In fact, the worldly wisdom is at odds with the wisdom of God (Col. 2.23; James 3.13-17).

So where can the wisdom of God be found? Job asked that very question (Job 28.12). We might try to search for it in the depths of the sea or purchase it with gold (Job 28.14,15). Even if one were to traverse the depths of death and destruction, he would not find it there (Job 28.22). But God knows where wisdom can be found (Job 28.23). So where is it? **JOB 28.28:** “*And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.’*” One who fears and respects God is wise. And it is only when he departs from evil that he gets understanding. CLP

GETTING EXCITED ABOUT WORSHIP

NEHEMIAH 8:6

INTRODUCTION:

1. We try to worship God with enthusiasm and sincerity, but sometimes worshipping God can seem boring.
2. Nehemiah can help us make our worship more meaningful.
 - a) **NEHEMIAH 8.5,6:** The people put their heart into it.
 - b) **NEHEMIAH 8.12:** After worship, the people rejoiced.
3. How can we make our worship more meaningful?

I. UNFOLDING THE PASSAGE

A. WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WORSHIP.

1. It was a great assembly in the open square. (Neh. 8.1)
2. It was the Jewish new year. (Neh. 8.1; cf. 7.73)

B. WHAT HAPPENED DURING WORSHIP.

1. **NEHEMIAH 8.1,2:** “they told Ezra the scribe to bring the *Book of the Law of Moses...*” (cf. Lev. 23.23)
2. **NEHEMIAH 8.3:** He read the Bible for about six hours.
3. **NEHEMIAH 8.4-8:** Ezra explained the scriptures.
4. **NEHEMIAH 8.9:** “For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.”

C. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER WORSHIP.

1. **NEHEMIAH 8.10:** The people left to have a feast.
2. **NEHEMIAH 8.11,12:** The people celebrated.

II. WORSHIP IS TO BE BIBLE FOCUSED

A. They had a passion for the Bible.

1. Time was not a factor in their worship. (Neh. 8.3)
2. No padded pews, but six hours of standing. (Neh. 8.5)
3. They read and studied the Bible. (Neh. 8.8)

B. How can I make my worship more Bible focused? Bring your Bible, mark your Bible, and take notes. (Acts 17.11)

III. WORSHIP IS TO BE GOD FOCUSED

A. Before reading from the Law, Ezra praises God. (Neh. 8.6)

1. The people responded with excitement. (Neh. 8.6)
2. The people had telling posture. (Neh. 8.6)

B. How can I make my worship more God focused? Worship like you mean it. (Eph. 5.19; Matt. 6.9; 2 Tim. 3.16)

CONCLUSION: Worship is pleasant and beautiful. (Ps. 147.1)

YOU ARE LOVED

The challenges of life can leave anyone feeling unappreciated, unvalued, and unloved. Romans 8.31 begins by asking a question: “*What then shall we say to these things?*” If you put that question into the context, you are reading a chapter about the Holy Spirit and how He works in our lives through the influence of the word (Rom. 8.1,2,28). When you narrow down the context, the inspired writer makes reference to “*the sufferings of this present time*” (Rom. 8.18).

With this in mind, the question is being asked, “What should we conclude about the Holy Spirit working in our lives during these times of sufferings.” The rest of the chapter answers that question by reminding us that we are loved. Over and over again, God has proven how much He loves us and is on our side. He proved it by giving us the Holy Spirit. He proved it in that He “*did not spare His, but delivered Him up for us all*” (Rom. 8.32). Therefore, nothing and no one “*shall separate us from the love of Christ*” (Rom. 8.35). There is nothing and there is no one who will cause God to stop loving you.

Perhaps we are being accused of things we have never done. Then they take it to the next level. It becomes more than just an accusation. They have judged us to be guilty (Rom. 8.33,34). Reference is made to “*tribulations*” which are circumstances that cause us to be distressed. Reference is made to “*distress*” which is literally the idea of being squeezed. Reference is made to “*persecution,*” being chased by those who wish you harm. He mentions physical needs caused by “*famine*” and “*nakedness*” (Rom. 8.35).

All these “*sufferings of this present time*” may cause you to question the love of God. When you are being accused of things you have never done and are condemned, you might be left to wonder why God does not help you (Ps. 13.1.2). When you find ourselves in distressing circumstances and you feel like you are under enormous pressure, you may begin to question if God is really there for you like He promised (Heb. 13.5,6). When people come after you to hurt you with their words, or you wonder how you are going to make ends meet, you might ask, “Why doesn’t God hear me when I cry out to Him?” That is when you need to be reminded that none of these things “*shall separate us from the love of Christ*” (Rom. 8.35).

Notice how Romans 8 ends. Verse 37 says, “*Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*” Verse 38,39, conclude by saying that nothing “*shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” No matter what problems come into your life, you can get through it, because God loves you and is on your side. He proved it by sending His Holy Spirit and giving up His Son so that you can be saved.

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