

# *Developing A Christ Centered Marriage*

## *Part 2*

### **REVIEW;**

- 1. GOD CREATED MARRIAGE (GEN. 2:24)**
- 2. EVERYTHING GOD CREATES THE ENEMY SEEKS TO DESTROY (GEN. 3:1-7)**
- 3. HEALTHY SOCIETIES COME FROM HEALTHY FAMILIES WHICH COME FROM HEALTHY MARRIAGES**
- 4. MARRIAGES ARE A TARGET OF THE ENEMY (JOHN 10:10)**
- 5. OUR BATTLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD BUT AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF DARKNESS (EPH 6:12)**
- 6. IN ORDER TO WIN THE BATTLE WE MUST BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER (EPH 6:10)**
- 7. IN ORDER TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD WE MUST KEEP THREE SUPPLIES OPEN**
- 8. THESE SUPPLY LINES ARE THE WORD, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP (ACT 2:42)**
- 9. WE MUST SEEK TO ACCESS THESE DIVINE SUPPLY LINES DAILY**
- 10. IF WE DON'T, WE WILL LOSE THE BATTLE FOR OUR MARRIAGES/FAMILY/SOCIETY**

**Eph. 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.**

Gentile=unbeliever

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the *unbelievers* do, in the futility of their thinking.

Futile- adjective

1. incapable of producing any result; ineffective; useless; not successful
2. Trifling; frivolous; unimportant

What about the unbeliever does it say is futile?

How (or why) is the thinking of an unbeliever futile?

What is Paul's point here?

Does he merely suggest we don't live like the unbeliever?

How does this apply to our marriages?

## **THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE UNBELIEVER**

**18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.**

How does Paul describe the understanding of the unbeliever?

What is their understanding darkened to?

Why is the unbelievers understanding darkened?

Why are they separated from the life of God?

What does it mean to be ignorant?

What is the cause of their ignorance?

Note the connection between understanding and the heart.

## **THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE UNBELIEVER**

**19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.**

What has the unbeliever lost?

What are they insensitive to?

What are they sensitive to?

What do they give themselves over to?

What does that cause them to indulge in?

How much impurity do they indulge in?

This is a description of a life that is in a downward spiral because it is controlled by the power of sin.

What is Paul's point in all of this? (v 17)

It is possible for a believer to fall into this same pattern.

1. SEPERATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD  
(WORD/PRAYER/FELLOWSHIP)
2. UNDERSTANDING BECOMES DARKENED
3. IGNORES THE HOLY SPIRIT
4. HEART BECOME HARD
5. LOSES SENSITIVITY
6. GIVES THEMSELVES OVER TO SENSUALITY
7. INDULGES IN IMPURITY
8. WITH A CONTINUAL LUST FOR MORE
9. THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF A CARNAL CHRISTIAN

**20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.**

**21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.**

Why does Paul say you, however, did not come to know Christ that way?

Where does it say the truth is in?

What life can we look at to see if our lives are following the truth?

*Developing A Christ Centered Marriage*

**Joh 18:37 For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”**

What is the opposite of truth?

**22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;**

What are we to put off?

How does v 22 describe the old self?

What is the old self corrupted by?

What does it mean by a deceitful desire?

Are all desires deceitful (bad)?

What does it mean to deceive?

How can we know if a desire is deceitful or not?

**23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;**

What are we to be made new in?

Does a good/bad attitude have an effect on you?

**Philipp. 2:3-5 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus**

What is our attitude supposed to be like?

**24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

What are we to put on?

What is it created to be like?

What does it mean to be righteous?

What does it mean to be holy?

What physical items do we put on and put off everyday?

Does this indicate that this is a choice?

What should our spouse see us spiritually wearing every day?

The secret to a successful marriage is to die to yourself.

**25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.**

What is the first thing we are instructed to put off?

What does it mean by falsehood?

Why is this important for any relationship?

What are we told to do?

Who are we told to speak truthfully to?

Why are we told to do this?

What is the point?

Why is truth important in a relationship?

*Developing A Christ Centered Marriage*

*Developing A Christ Centered Marriage*

What does the truth build?

Trust is like a precious crystal punch bowl we hand to someone and tell them not to drop it.

What happens if we do drop it?

How hard is it to put back together?

(You will have to crawl on glass in order to do it.)

What does falsehood do to a relationship?

(steals, kills, destroys)-like battery acid

**26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.**

What reaction do we have when someone has been untruthful to us?

What are we told not to do next?

Is all anger sin?

How do we know?

Where do we find the truth?

Did Jesus ever get angry?

What did He get angry about?

What do we get angry about most often?

Was Jesus ever insulted/mistreated/abused/falsely accused?

How did He react to those things?

Sinful anger=anger over wrong done to me

Righteous anger=anger over wrong done to others

**What does it say not to do with our anger?**

**What does that mean?**

**What does it say happens if we let anger settle in our heart?**

**What does anger turn into when we let it settle in our hearts?**

**What does bitterness do to relationships?**

**(Steals, kills, destroys)**

**He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.**

What does it say we must not do?

What is stealing?

Is it selfish to steal?

If someone doesn't give you what they owe you. Are they stealing?

How can couples steal from each other in a relationship?

What does it say we must do?

What are some things that we are to give to one another?

Who are we to share with?

How do you know what someone needs?

## *Developing A Christ Centered Marriage*

### **5 LANGUAGES OF LOVE**

1. GIFTS
2. QUALITY TIME
3. SERVICE
4. ENCOURAGING WORDS
5. PHYSICAL AFFECTION
6. NOT EVERYONES LOVE LANGUAGE IS THE SAME.
7. WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO TRY TO LOVE OTHERS WITH OUR LOVE LANGUAGE INSTEAD OF THEIRS.
8. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSES LOVE LANGUAGE?
9. MEN GO FIRST
10. NOW THAT YOU KNOW YOUR SPOUSES LOVE LANGUAGE, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
11. WILL THESE EVER CHANGE?
12. HOW WILL YOU KNOW?
13. YOU WILL ASK EVERY WEEK.

### **THREE MARRIAGE KILLERS**

1. FALSEHOOD
  2. ANGER
  3. SELFISHNESS
- WHAT DO WE DO?
  - REPENT/CONFESS OF ANY FALSEHOOD
  - OF ANY ANGER
  - OF ANY SELFISHNESS
  - (IF WE DO NOT THEY WILL STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY OUR MARRIAGES)

**You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**