

Majoring on the Majors!
Part 7: *Staying Connected with Your Mate*
Slide Notations

Kingdom Fullness! Five hindrances to having it all! Money on the throne! **Lk 16.13 Mt6.33 1Tim 5.9,10** No intimacy w/the Head of the Kingdom! **Eph 3.12-18** Church Marriages that aren't! Kids who don't see the Kingdom! Friends who don't know how to be!

**Since God put married couples at the beginning of creation and kingdom dominion...
It makes sense for us to focus our attention on what He was doing...
If we want to get what He was planning!**

Husbands and Wives... Are the foundation of all relationships and ministry on the earth! The failure in Eden brought us a 7,000 yr old, subterranean, alternate life experience... For 2,000 of those yrs, men and women of faith have been appropriating God's power for restoration... But have been set back, constantly, by the ever changing, always coming, hindrances to obtaining our fullness!

Jesus put all the power to overcome all the hindrances to having God's fullness – in His Word!

Husbands and Wives... In the Church, are in Crisis today... Sexualizing culture makes it easy to compromise our promises/secretly... We have God's word for purity! Moral integrity begins to tear... We have God's word for strength! Rips open our families/dissipates nation... We have God's word for restoration!

The fullness that we need so much comes from realigning w/God's plan/rule/Word!

Church Marriages! *The Purpose:* two people becoming one partner with the Lord to rule over our worlds! **Gen 1.26 & 2.7-25** *The Promise:* a commitment, that excludes the possibility of divorce! **Mt 19.6 Mk 10.6-10** (except for adultery) *The Process:* of upkeep, refinement and growth for a lifetime! **E5.15-35**

And in all stages, the model and goal is a relationship that looks like what Jesus has with His church!

Left off in "Process!" Long term interaction with each other for the purposes of good! A life long commitment to encourage and help our partner obtain the fullness of God for their lives! 1st Rule of Engagement : "We never think, use, threaten divorce again (unless there is the cause of adultery)!"

Rules of engagement... We remove the word divorce from our hearts, minds and lips! God is the joiner! The Devil is the separator! And if we look to our model: "Jesus never thinks, says or threatens a divorce from His Church!" "Never leave/forsake" **H13.5** He will let "the unbelieving partner leave..." but He never initiates separation... **1Cor7.15** (*Even when we commit adultery/world!*)

Divorce is not the best option and should never be your first choice!

30 yrs of divorce research! Life expectancies for divorcees are significantly lower than for married people (longest life expectancies) The health consequences of divorce are so severe that a Yale researcher concluded that "being divorced and a nonsmoker is slightly less dangerous than smoking a pack a day and staying married."

After a diagnosis of cancer, married people are most likely to recover, while the divorced are least likely to recover, indicating that the emotional trauma of divorce has a long term impact on the physical health of the body.

Men and women both suffer a decline in mental health following divorce, but researchers have found that women are more greatly affected. Some of the mental health indicators impacted by divorce include depression, hostility, self-acceptance, personal growth and positive relations with others.

Most divorcees think they are getting away from problems... in reality anger, resentment, sensitivity, self rule, self dependence, self preservation only increase... and w/o true intervention & cleansing the factors causing the 1st failure carry into 2nd marriages... which have higher failure rates! (once you've been there... easier second time!)

Many divorcees suffer financially... Most women experience 30% decline in standard of living! (men: app 10%) After coming up w/court costs! Many divorcees must move back in w/ parents or friends to survive! ***Find themselves compromising in different ways to survive economically and emotionally!***

If the stat's are half true... divorce is a good thing to avoid!

Back to the process... *Long term interaction with each other for the purposes of good!*

1st rule: we hit the delete key on the word/ threat/action of divorce! Absolutely the last option... And if not for the reason of adultery... it becomes a sin we must acknowledge, receive forgiveness, overcome usage!

2nd rule: no bullying, hitting, bloodletting... Acknowledging men **G2.7**/women **v22** different... VIVE LA DIFFERENCE! **v23** Going to have differing opinions and perspectives which is "Very Good!" Unless you forget God's purposes and begin arguing, then fighting about it! A "fight" should never be physical!

3rd rule: Stop fighting about things that Jesus would not fight about! 95% arguments just ended! Jesus would not get angry and fight with His church over burnt dinner, let down of expectations, kids are too loud, check book doesn't balance, favorite shirt not clean, not enough "interaction!" If He's not mad/you shouldn't be!

Right anger issues... When people complain against God **N11.1**, His own/joining w/wicked **N25.3**, when we corrupt ourselves **D4.25**, using witches/wizards/sorcery/spells/charms/ familiar spirits/divinations **2Chr33.6**, sin **Is1.4, 9.17**, injustice, unforgiveness, spoiling the name of God, blasphemy of Holy Spirit, etc, moral/eternal/significance... And we should be angry together, not with each other! ***Doubt these are the things your last fight was about!!!***

Right anger... Together... Slow anger, plentiful w/mercy **Tit 1.7, Ps 103.8**, quick recovery; never goes to sleep w/o resolution **E4.26**, anger that lasts a moment; w/weeping that may endure for a night, but joy replaces it in the morning **Ps30.5**, is always focused on righteousness for the purposes of fullness **Heb 12.10,11** ***The heat of our anger, if at all, w/each other should never be destructive but "welding!"***

Husbands and Wives... Are supposed to challenge one another like Jesus and the church challenge each other; for purification/masters! Are not supposed to live in fear and competition of one another... any more than the Church is supposed to live in fear and competition with Jesus! Are supposed to argue for, be angry about, and fight for the things that Jesus argues, angers, and fights about!

Overarching it all... We are not supposed to be fighting each other, but be fighting side-by-side! "Men should love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself! For no man ever hated his own flesh but nourishes it and loves it just like the Lord does His church – and we are

members of His body, His flesh, His bones – and this is why the man is joined to his wife and the two become one flesh!” **E5.28-32**

Ephesians 5.29 “**No man ever hated his own flesh...**” Adversarial language! Two at war! How can the two that are “one” be at war w/o damaging the “one?” How can there be war in the “one” w/o doing damage to “THE ONE” who formed and made them one? “And where do wars in you come from? From your intra/inter-personal lusts!” **Jm4** “make no provision to fulfill/lusts” **R13.14** “flee juvenile over-longings.” **2T2.22**

Save your adversarial language and energies for your common enemies... The one who looks for people he can devour and the world offerings he uses as the snare! In every H/W conflict, choose the third option... God’s ways!

Ephesians 5.29 “**but nourishes and loves it...**” Feed it constantly! Maybe too much! When it’s at risk, we protect it! When it’s sick, we strengthen it! When it’s hurt, we heal it! When it’s broken, we fix it! When it’s cold, we warm it! When it’s hot, we cool it down! What it lacks, we “die” for! Two as one are better than one alone because they have a good reward for their (co)labor... They find the peace and the power that transcends human understanding and leads to fullness!