

THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

The design of marriage is for two people who love God to commit to love one another with the love of God. Fundamental to a successful marriage is the LORDSHIP OF CHRIST. The only way marriage can be the blessing God intended is if each person is committed to living a Christian life. That which defeats marriage is when one or both fail to maintain the lordship of Christ.

Ephesians 4:17 The great section in the New Testament on marriage is recorded in Ephesians 5:22-33. To understand this section properly, we must understand the context in which it is written.

Futility is the complete lack of effectiveness or point, uselessness, unimportance, triviality. Outside of Christ, there is no point to life. Many get married to fill the void of godlessness and become very disillusioned and disheartened when it does not take away the pain. The thought comes: "I married the wrong person." Yet, the truth is no other person can fill your void.

Ephesians 4:19 "Sensuality" is unbridled lust (without restraint, unruly). "Impurity" is uncleanness, and greediness is greedy desire to have more. These things are what non-Christians busy themselves with and what we become involved with when Christ is not maintained at the center of our lives. That which defeats our marriage is Gentile-like behavior, not incompatibility.

Verse 24 We operate either out of our old heart or the Christ-like heart. We must work at laying aside our old self, which requires the help of God and at least one other person who loves God and you unconditionally. The most qualified person for this job is our spouse, but because of satanic influence, our spouse is usually the last person from whom we seek help.

Verse 25 When we operate from lie based thinking, our actions will be ungodly. The problem is that our lies are what we know to be true to us. When we are deceived, we need the help of another to see clearly.

Verse 27 Anger destroys relationships and gives place to satanic influences and demon occupation. Do you want your marriage to work? Stop fighting with each other, and begin to help each other to stand against the methods of the devil.

Verses 28 - 32 The required behavior for marriage. We live this way not because our spouse deserves it, but because our Lord commands it.

Ephesians 5:1 and 2 The standard for loving our spouse is Christ. The lie we believe is that our unloving behavior toward our spouse is due to his or her unloving behavior to us. Our behavior in relationship to our spouse, or any other human, should have everything to do with our personal relationship with God through Christ.

Verse 7 Immorality, impurity, and greed are the three major sins that cause people to destroy their marriage, life, and entrance into the Kingdom (Ephesians 4:19; I Corinthians 6:12-20; Colossians 3:5).

Verse 10 "Learn in your own experiences what is fully pleasing to the Lord." We should grow together helping one another to mature into the person God has called us to be.

Verse 11 Walking in light is fruitful, while walking in darkness is unfruitful.

Verse 17 We must be very careful how we walk. Those things that are not godly should not be ignored for they only get worse. We need to embrace our pain and sinfulness, determine the roots, and take action to dispel the darkness. Nothing changes without our input and consistent determination.

Verse 18 Sober mindedness is required to withstand the attacks of the adversary.

Verse 21 We are to be in subjection one to another in the fear of Christ. All of this comes before the instruction specific to marriage.