

MARRIAGE ILLUSIONS

Today's Lesson: Relationship Illusion

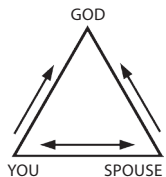
WHY WE BELIEVE IT

We fail to understand that relationships are spiritual in nature. Because of this spiritual essence, our relationships with God and with our spouse are interconnected and dependent on each other.

Ephesians 5:21–27—*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

INTRODUCTION: _____

QUOTE: “No person on Earth is capable of giving us the fulfillment we crave. We were built to find our completeness only in Him. Everything starts with God. He designed us to depend completely upon Him—heart, soul, mind, and strength. We will never find ultimate satisfaction except in a vital and dynamic relationship with Him.”—GARY CHAPMAN



1. The Foundational _____ of My Relationship with God

F. It prepares my _____.

Proverbs 15:1, 28—*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger... The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.*

Proverbs 16:1—*The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.*

1 Peter 3:9—*Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

3. How My Marriage Affects My Relationship with _____

Genesis 2:18—*And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.*

A. By mutual _____ and edification

Romans 14:19—*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*

B. By partnering for _____

Matthew 18:19—*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

1 Peter 3:7—*Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

C. By providing an environment for becoming like _____

Romans 8:29—*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

D. By determining to grow _____

2 Peter 3:18—*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

E. By serving the Lord as a _____

Romans 16:3–5—*Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*



QUOTE: “The shortest route to a godly marriage and family is to first invest the ongoing effort and time each day in becoming a more passionate, committed, and skilled disciple of Christ.”—DENNIS RAINEY

A. God’s Word provides a foundation for _____.

Matthew 7:24–27— *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

The Role of God’s Word in Marriage

- It defines the high value of my spouse.
- It corrects my behavior when necessary.
- It provides common ground, where the couples can meet one another.
- It acts as a filter for thoughts and words.
- It teaches me wisdom and understanding.

B. God’s Spirit produces _____ in our lives.

Galatians 5:22–23— *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

The Role of God’s Spirit in Marriage

- He produces love within the heart.
- He provides real-time guidance in words and actions.
- He enables Christian character.
- He provides the power to overcome negative tendencies.
- He grants discernment for dealing with the unpredictable.

QUOTE: “If you’re not a faithful, daily student of the Bible, and if you’re not experiencing the moment-by-moment guidance of the Holy Spirit, I guarantee that your marriage is less than it could be.”

2. How My Relationship with God Affects

My _____

A. It produces my _____.

Proverbs 4:23— *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

QUOTE: “A great marriage is not the product of finding the right person, but being the right person.”—BARNETT BRICKNER

QUOTE: “Your emotional well-being should never depend on another person meeting your expectations. You can assume personal responsibility for your own moods, emotions, words, and actions simply by changing your beliefs.”—GARY CHAPMAN

B. It promotes _____.

Genesis 2:22–24— *And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

QUOTE: “Adam had faith in God’s integrity. He knew God could be trusted. Eve had done nothing to earn Adam’s response. He accepted her because God had made her for him.”—DENNIS RAINEY

C. It provides _____.

1 Chronicles 4:10— *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Proverbs 2:10–12— *When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;*

Matthew 6:13— *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

Psalms 141:9— *Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity.*

D. It produces an _____.

Psalms 16:11— *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

E. It paves the way for _____.

Colossians 3:13— *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

QUOTE: “A good marriage is the union of two forgivers.”—RUTH GRAHAM

QUOTE: “You can tell whether you have forgiven your spouse by asking yourself one question: Have I given up my desire to punish my mate?”—DENNIS RAINEY