

Relationships - Family #15 - Marriage #2

AT Snacks-- February 23, 2025

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Monday:

The most important relationship in your life is with the Lord. The second most important relationship in your life is your relationship with your spouse.

Please read Ephesians 5:22-33. This is a review from last week that helps to lay a huge foundation concerning our marriage relationships.

There's mutual responsibility in a marriage, but the greater responsibility lies at the door of the husband.

The marriage is like a kingdom enterprise, and the husband and the wife are in their relationship along with their kids, to display all the facets of the Kingdom of God in the family.

What's happening now has never been seen before, and if a leader/leaders think they know how to manage and know how to facilitate this thing, they're the most deceived people, because nobody knows how to run this thing that's happening. That applies to all of us.

Husbands, if you start loving your wife like Jesus loved the church, then you're someone who actually is worthy for a wife to submit themselves unto you as unto the Lord.

A kingdom marriage is centered on Jesus and His Kingdom. It operates in love and honor. It thrives on communication, honesty and transparency. Kingdom marriages walk in forgiveness and grace. Kingdom marriages are built on trust and faithfulness. The marriage is the purest example of a true partnership.

The divorce rate in America is about 50%, which includes Christians, but of the couples who pray together, the stats go to one in 1152. So, the smart people know what to do.

Tuesday:

Everyone of us right now has an empty spot that nothing can fill up except your own personal relationship with the Father. If you try to get your mate, husband or wife, to meet that deepest need that exists in you, they can't do that. That's something that only the Father can do in relationship.

Please read Genesis 1:26-28. This talks about man being made in the likeness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 2:18 says, *And the Lord God said, "it is not good that man should be alone. I will make him a helper, comparable to him"*. The message translation says this, *"I'll make him a helper, a companion"*. The New Living Translation says, *"I'll make him a helper who is just right for him"*.

So, God took a rib from Adam, **which made him incomplete**. Then He fashioned Eve and presented her back to Adam. Then the Bible says that the two shall become one flesh. So, when God looks at you, at your marriage, He's not looking at two people. He's looking at one unit.

Genesis 2: 24-25 says, *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed"*. This scripture references transparency in relationships, especially in a marriage relationship, that there should be nothing hidden.

In a kingdom marriage, the husband and wife compliment one another. Where he's strong, she is weaker. Where's he's weak, she is stronger. It causes each one to require yielding to the other in certain situations, ensuring that the best one for the job does the job. Men, you are not complete without her. Women, you're not complete without him.

One of the great challenges in marriage is finding out how each one is gifted and working together as one flesh. Learn these strengths and weaknesses, and learn to make the differences work for you, rather than against you.

Robert C Dodds says it this way, "*The goal in marriage is not to think alike, but to think together and learn how to make your marriage strong with the corresponding strengths and weaknesses*".

Wednesday:

Reading Genesis chapter 3 would really help shed light on what Andy is talking about going forward.

1 Corinthians 15: 46 says, "*However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual*". So what you see in the natural, actually happening the Old Testament, has spiritual ramifications in the New Testament. The crossing of the Red Sea actually happened, but it's also a type and shadow of water baptism generations down the line. We go through the baptismal waters- that is a type and shadow, and we come out to a new life on the other side.

So in the garden, there were three entities, Adam, Eve and the serpent. The serpent is a type of the flesh. Eve is a type of the soul, and Adam is a type of the spirit.

Anytime the flesh, your flesh, and the soul (your mind, will and emotions) communicate without the counsel of the Holy Spirit, there is an open door to go down the wrong road. The enemy always comes basing it on logic and reason, common sense. He tries to get you to compromise, and he makes it seem like the right thing to do.

Part of the flesh is to cast blame on somebody else rather than owning it yourself. That's what Adam did in the garden, by blaming Eve following eating the forbidden fruit. That is where sin entered the picture.

The Bible uses several different words to classify sin.

- **Sin** is basically missing the mark, an act of wrongdoing, sometimes in ignorance or weakness. Sin is falling short and missing the bulls-eye of God's righteousness. Because of Adam's sin, we now were born with a sin nature.
- **Transgression** means willful rebellion, knowing right from wrong and intentionally breaking it, crossing a clearly defined boundary.
- **Iniquity** means twisted, perversion, sin that has become a deep character flaw, twisting the heart away from righteousness, premeditated... and the danger is for that is to become a lifestyle.

Thursday:

Please read Isaiah 53. Jesus did all that so you wouldn't have to be imprisoned for the rest of your life in your griefs, your sorrows, and your transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, so that twisted perversion, that sinful lifestyle, wouldn't become a sinful habit, wouldn't become a lifestyle for you.

Now you have to appropriate that and learn how to live it out and walk it out in your life. And the Spirit of God will help you do that.

By His stripes we are healed, being beaten with that cat of nine tails. When He was being beaten, He was purchasing for you the legal right in the courts of heaven that if you have something physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, wrong with you, you can be healed.

When you pray for someone to be healed... I don't hear it around here but I hear it a lot in other places, "God, if it's your will, would you heal them- or me?" **Whoever prays that, doesn't know the Father.** Is it your will for your kids to be well? Are you having to think about that? If you're a father or mother, you don't have to think about it.

You may say, "*Well, okay, so how come sometimes I pray for somebody and they get healed, and sometimes I pray for somebody, and they don't get healed*". Here's my answer for that, "*I Don't Know*". But it's not going to keep me from believing and contending. When God is able to trust you with that kind of power in your life, you'll see a lot of those things happen.

Let's say you're tempted to act in anger or retaliation towards someone. There's a space of time between when you get your buttons pushed and you go ahead and lash out. If you don't allow the Spirit of God to direct you in that situation, you're going to sin. You're going to run right past the Holy Spirit.

That space of time is your opportunity to say, "*Okay, God. That's how I use to handle it. I can't handle it like that anymore*". Every time you do that, you become more of a kingdom person.

Friday:

The Kingdom of God operates not on logic, but on God's perfect will. It's learning to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and that's where you really need Him. Do it the Spirit's way, not yours.

The flesh and soul is part of us that's so focused and determined to have instant gratification that we're prone to disregard wisdom, ignore long term consequences and resist the patience and discipline it takes to walk in the spirit.

There are rules and ways of the Kingdom of God. And you say, "*Well, Andy, you're always telling us that we're not under a set of rules*". You're under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Who is the rule keeper. He'll help you keep the rules, but you have to learn to be sensitive to Him. **You can do it. The question is, will you do it?**

When you do right, nothing but right will come as a consequence, but when you do wrong, if you continue to do wrong, nothing good is going to come from that. Because that's one of the rules of the kingdom.

Who has the authority in the marriage? 1 Corinthians 11:3 says, "*But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God*". The buck stops with the husbands. If the household is not operating in a Godly way, like it is supposed to, the husband is responsible for that.

When I first started going to church, most everywhere, the people who were most active spiritually were women, and men took a back seat. That has to change.

One of the things I always tell a married couple during counseling is, "*I want you to start praying together and I don't want the wife to initiate it*". It can be awkward praying with your wife, but men, you need to initiate that.

Saturday:

There will be a struggle for control in the marriage, but the husband will carry the role of leadership. So husbands, you lead as someone in authority.

HUSBANDS, lead in love. You should lead as a servant leader, not a dictator. You should prioritize the wife's needs and spiritual growth. You should make decisions that honor God and bless the family.

WIVES, submit in trust. Submission is not weakness. We, as believers, are sons and daughters of God, and we have absolutely no authority unless we're under His authority. So wives, for you to submit to your husband doesn't mean you have less authority. You have more authority, because you're operating the way God said to operate.

It's simple the way you read that, but when you're fleshing it out in your marriage, it's messy. It's hard to work to go through that stuff to figure it out, but you can do it. You need the help of the Holy Spirit to work through this, so your marriage can be strong.

The church is only going to be as strong as the relationships in the church, and the relationships in the church are only going to be as strong as the marriages are. The marriage has to be strong if the family is going to be strong.

1 Peter 3:7 says, "*Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered*". Weaker vessel does not mean less than or inferior. Physically more fragile, delicate, sensitive, perceptive. The wives tend to be more perceptive.

Husbands with understanding, give honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, more delicate, as being heirs together, graceful. If we don't do this, our prayers are less effective.

Our marriages are always a work in progress. **Don't put your marriage on autopilot.** Let's spark that relationship up a little bit. Let's start to talk about the things of God. Let's get on board with what God's doing in the world right now, and do it as a team, husband and wife. **You and your wife go after God together.**