

# Relationships - Family #15 - Marriage #1

AT Snacks-- February 16, 2025

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## Monday:

Get engaged in a relationship, one on one, give and take, talking and listening to the Father. If you don't do this, you've missed the whole point. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and love your neighbor as yourself.* This is a church that is built on relationships.

At the end of your life, you're going to look back and you will see that what was important in your life and made your life rich wasn't the money you made or how famous you became. The things that have made your life rich are the relationships that you've been in along the way.

Some relationships just might not make it, but that's not your "out" on the deal. For kingdom people, the need, the hope for, the prayer for, and the belief for reconciliation always remains. So just keep your heart clean and open.

What are you learning about yourself in some of these relationships, the good ones, the tough ones, the hard ones, the ones that seem impossible? That's where the greater change happens in your heart. You can't do anything about anybody else's heart, but you have control over what you do with your heart.

The deepest part of you, the spirit part of you, is the control room for your life. So, pay attention to what God wants to do in your heart, in you. If you're serious about it, He's not going to leave anything alone that's not like Jesus.

How many of you want to be good forgivers in the long haul? Well, you know how you get to do that? You get a lot of practice. If you can't forgive, you can't be free.

I've avoided some serious conversations that I should have had with certain people down through the years, and really paid the price for that. We all have different gifts, different strengths and different weaknesses. Jordan Peterson says it this way, *"Conflict avoided is conflict multiplied"*.

If you are having a problem with someone, who's the kingdom person in this situation? If that's you, do what I do. Take that to Him, and find out. He'll listen. He won't be silent in those things. He'll show you what to do.

## Tuesday:

The first and most important relationship you have is with the Father. The second most important relationship you have is with your spouse, guys and girls.

**Please sit down and take the time to read Ephesians 5: 22-33. This scripture gives you a bunch of practical stuff that will help you in your relationships.**

While there's mutual responsibility in marriage of the husband and wife, the greater responsibility lies at the husband's door.

Husbands, if you'll make it a priority to love your wife like Jesus loved the church, then you will be a perfect target for a wife to submit themselves to you, just like they would unto the Lord. If you try that, it'll revolutionize you and your marriage as well. **A kingdom marriage is centered on Jesus and His kingdom.**

There's a revolution happening right now in little grassroots places like here in Oklahoma and other places where God is getting the church to be like it's supposed to be; not religious, not all this holier than thou stuff, but something that really works, and something that He's dwelling in and gives life to and challenges all kinds of church tradition.

The church is only going to be as strong and effective as the relationships involved.

A kingdom marriage is centered on Jesus and His kingdom. *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"*. When you prioritize the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, everything else falls into proper perspective.

A marriage that puts Jesus first will thrive. Prayer, worship, faithfulness to what God's called you to do creates a strong spiritual foundation.

### **Wednesday:**

Do you married couples pray together? **In 1997, a Gallup Poll showed that among couples who pray together regularly, the divorce rate is one in 1152; less than 1/10 of a percent of those end in divorce.** So, don't you think the light bulb would come on?

The greater responsibility lies at the door of the husbands. Guys, it's your responsibility to lead in that, not to wait for your wife to do it. This is something you ought to set in motion. If you believe what this book says, that's kind of a no brainer. **If you don't do it, that's your own problem.**

A kingdom marriage operates in agape love. Love's not just a feeling, it's a daily choice to serve, honor and protect.

Wives, honor your husbands. Speak life and words of encouragement, affirm and appreciate your spouse on a daily basis. Practice kindness, serve each other in small ways. Do little things for your husband. Do little things for your wife. Little things that show her that you are thinking about her, that you care for her.

A lot of people say, *"My kids are the most important thing"*. NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. **The best thing you can do for your kids is to be fully devoted to your spouse.**

Practice kindness, avoid criticism, learn to love your spouse in the way he or she needs to be loved. We have the tendency to love someone else like we need to be loved. And that's not necessarily what really rings the bell for them.

If you don't have the book, "Five Love Languages", you should get that if you're serious about learning.

When you commit to love someone in the way they need to be loved, it's not in your ability to do so. You're going to commit to love your wife or husband in the way that they need to be loved. You say,

“*What is that*”? Find out. Find out what it is.

#### **Thursday:**

That’s God testing you to see if you’re going to love unconditionally, or if you’re going to be a pain in the rear and try to get someone to love you back like you need to be loved. And they need to do the same thing. It needs to be a mutual understanding.

This should be your declaration, “*I’m going to learn to love my wife or my husband, even though it doesn’t come naturally to me*”. Kingdom marriages operate in love and honor. Yeah, you can’t do it without that.

The greatest need that wives have is love. The greatest needs that husbands have is to be honored. If you want to hurt your husband in the worst way, dishonor him. If you want to hurt your wife in the worst way possible, let her feel unloved. **Let’s please never do this to one another.**

On the other hand, if you will honor your husband, no matter what state his life is in, if you’ll love and honor him, he’ll rise up to the level that you honor him at.

If you will love your wife, you’ll show up home from work and you won’t believe the wife you have if you will love her like she needs to be loved. You won’t even believe it.

God needs your marriage to be strong, so do whatever it takes to make it very strong. Husbands, wives, and the church that’s built on relationship, like ours, lives and dies on whether we do that or not. It’s not an option, it’s mandatory.

Kingdom marriages thrive on communication, honesty and transparency. Proverbs 18:21 says, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*”. Ephesians 4:29 says, “*Let no corrupt word or let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good for necessary edification, bringing people together that it may impart grace to the hearers*”.

Words can heal or destroy a marriage. Honest and loving communication builds trust and intimacy. Learn to communicate. It’s a lifetime endeavor, but it’s worth it.

#### **Friday:**

In good, solid, strong, heading-for-perfect relationships, there should be nothing hidden. Transparency in relationships breeds the level of trust that can’t be achieved any other way.

Commit to communicate about the hard things. If you don’t communicate about the hard things, there will come a time where you fight. In your marriage you’re going to fight a little bit, and you need to learn how to fight fairly.

There are always disagreements and things that come up. You see things differently than she sees it. She thinks she sees things differently than you see it. We see those things as a liability, but they’re really an asset, because she has a perspective that you don’t have. You have a perspective that she doesn’t have.

The things that you don’t communicate about that need to be communicated about will come out in

the middle of a fight. The issue or issues always get bigger and they never get resolved. So you can do that the rest of your life, or you can learn how to communicate about the hard things.

If the tension gets too high, stop right there and say, *“Let’s just take a break. Let’s get together tomorrow or the next day, when the tension is not so high, let’s get back together”*. You’ve got the rest of your life, but we have to start working through those things.

Couples rarely sit down and really talk about things that need to be talked about. So we need to get better at communicating. Listen, make eye contact, fight fairly because there will be disagreements. Problems in a marriage are not bad, because they have a way of revealing things in you, things in him or her. **That’s a place right there to invite the Holy Spirit in, to help you through the situation.**

Anytime you make the problem more important than the relationship, the relationship is in trouble. But kingdom people give the value to the relationship that God has, and when we do that, we have a responsibility to work through the issues.

A kingdom marriage walks in forgiveness and grace. Colossians 3:13 says, *“Bearing with one another, forgiving one another. If anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must forgive”*.

#### **Saturday:**

Letting go of offenses prevents bitterness from taking root. Work to be “unoffendable”, forgive, apologize quickly.

Own your mistakes. Seek reconciliation. Let the little things go. Don’t fight about every little thing.

Faithfulness is about physical, emotional and spiritual purity. Trust is built over time, but it can be broken in an instant, and when trust is broken, it takes a long time to build trust back.

As a kingdom person, you’re going to stay hooked, you’re going to prove yourself to be faithful, and you’re going to rebuild the trust that was broken by whatever it was that happened.

Set boundaries with your spouse, to protect your marriage. Be accountable to one another in everything, reassure your spouse, express commitment and loyalty to them.

**Say, “I LOVE YOU” and say it often.**

Some people grow up in a family where *“I love you”* is not said a lot. But you can turn the tide on that. It means to them what love means to them.

Tell God you love Him. Say, *“I love You”* **A LOT**, and say it often.

A kingdom marriage is the purest example of a true partnership. A couple must strive to be in unity in their purpose, their calling and their goals. Support each other’s dreams, the assignments that they have from the Lord and their spiritual growth.

**Go after God together.** It’ll be the best thing you’ve ever done. Go after God together as husband and wife. Discuss the vision to set spiritual, financial and family goals. Pray over your decisions. Seek God’s direction before any big decisions are made. Encourage each other, in personal callings and gifting.

