

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

February 12, 2019

“Marriage: Thriving or Surviving

Overview: Married, divorced, single, wanting to marry, never wanting to marry... Wherever you are on this spectrum, we will discuss Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians. Often called the “Love Chapter,” it is shared at almost every wedding you attend. But do we understand what it says? The goal will be for you to better understand yourself and what God wants for you — whether married or single!

Hearing Our Stories: Dave Hudson

Segment Questions:

- Do you think our society takes marriage seriously? Does the church? Do we? If you wanted to be better in anything...golf, business, Bible study, what do you do? Can this apply to our marriages and relationships?
- Compare and contrast the things that you are strong and weak at from the lesson when it comes to marriage and relationships. This can be a good time to share things that work in your marriage. Can you be transparent enough to share areas of concern or how some negative practices were changed to positive? (Remember our discussions stay here.)
- What is something you have persevered through in a relationship? Can persevering through trials in our lives be comparable to persevering in our marriages and relationships?
- Christ’s bride is the church. The Bible talks about Him laying his life down for the church and how husbands are to do the same for their wives. How does that apply to us? Discuss.

Action Questions:

- Can we stop right now and pray at the tables for our marriages and relationships? Pray that we would become the right person.
- Discuss something you might do for your wife to show kindness/consideration or something to honor her. Discuss how we can control anger, envy, and pride.

Personal Prayer

Lord, we thank you for our marriages and relationships. Help us be more like you in all aspects of our life. Thank you for bringing us into our greatest relationship when you took us into your family. Help us pattern your love for us to others in all our relationships, and for us who are married let us love our wives as you love the church.

Overview and Introduction

With almost 50% of all marriages ending in divorce, it is clear we can say marriage is not easy. So many people believe everything will be OK if I marry the “right” person. The “right” person will complete me, understand me, overlook my faults and make the marriage wonderful! If this is so, why the high divorce rate? Instead of trying to find the “right” person, how about becoming the right person? This passage is read at almost every wedding, but do we really try to implement the teachings into our marriage, our lives?

4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. I Corinthians 13: 4-7

Love is patient. It is not about our spouse being patient, we are to be patient. Love doesn't pressure or nag. Patience just doesn't appear. You must work at it and seek Gods help. If we find the right person, they will be patient, and they will not mind if I am impatient. WRONG!!!!

Love is kind. In the Greek, it means considerate. Being considerate and kind is about putting others first. Being kind is being sensitive to the other's needs.

No envy in love. I don't feel so good about me, so I can't feel so good about you. My wellbeing is contingent on my position over you. Envy is really about one upping the other. Your wife says she has a terrible day....you say mine was worse. Don't go there. Listen to her bad day and then shut up!

Proud and boasting. If God opposes the proud; why would we think our spouse, our kids, or anyone we have a relationship with would want to be around a proud and boastful person? Pride and envy are cousins. When we are proud, aren't we really trying to be one up on everyone?

Love does not dishonor. We don't honor others naturally. We must work on this.

Not easily angered. Ouch. What is our capacity for anger? Anger is more about us than the other person.

No records of wrong. Do you have a ledger? A full hard drive? “You threw out my cherished t-shirt in 2011” Or she might say, “You gave me a vacuum cleaner for Christmas in 2004.” And from personal experience, don't keep a list of things you've done around the house. You will LOSE!!! Gentlemen, these are relationship killers. NO one wins. (Note Paul is not talking about abuse, this about petty things we argue about)

Usually, when the word persevere shows up it means something is not going to be easy or smooth. Love protects, trusts, hopes, it PERSEVERES!!! Our marriages and relationship will not be easy. You may think your marriage is toast, it won't get better. Are you protecting it, cherishing it, trusting and hoping in the Lord? He wants you to have a better marriage, a better life. We have to decide to put some of these thoughts into practice. We must show consideration, control our anger, not be proud, or envious! It must start in our heart and we must ask the Lord to help us. We want to be the right person in God's eyes and then if we can do that/or move towards being that right person, it must have a positive impact on our marriages and relationships.

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