

THANKS JEFF

Mission of Marriage

Ephesians 5:27-28

Intro

In the beginning when God created man, He said, it is not good for man to be alone, therefore he created women as a helper-campanion. Adam's reply to seeing Eve was, "this is bone of my bone flesh of my flesh". To translate, Adam was saying, this is the most beautiful person I have ever seen and she came from me. Today, I will be talking about the mission of marriage to give you a fresh and renewed view of marriage. This sermon is for the singles, the dating, the engaged, the newly-weds, and the experienced couples.

11 years ago I met a very beautiful young woman at a music store. I was tired of playing matchmaker, so I invited God into the process and he gave me Nyadia. God helped me realize, everything that I needed in a friend was in my spouse and it is important that we reflect his image. So my first point is:

I. Grow in God's Image

Genesis 1:27-28 speaks of us being made in the image of God and the command to be fruitful and multiply. This is something a man can not do alone, he needs help in this process. As we grow we need help, recognizing, and staying true to the image of God. Keeping the image of God and living as God wants us to live takes time (it's a process), therefore we have to have an accountability partner. There are areas in our life that one spouse is better at than the other. Example: Writing and grammar is not one of my strong areas, but my wife is, so it helps me and keeps me balanced. I am 10% in my grammar skills, but my wife is 90%, therefore together we are 100% effective when it comes to grammar skills.

Beyonce has a song called Let me upgrade you. Meaning let me help you improve in an area you are struggling with. Being fruitful and multiplying is more than populating the earth, it has to do also with you

having a fruitful lifestyle (getting better and smarter). When you are connect with the right spouse by God, you should feel like you been upgraded. You should feel like the both of you can reach new heights, grow in Gods image, becasue you have an accountability partner to hold you true. In Kellers book the meaning of Marriage, he refers to the scripture Philippians 1:6, where Paul is speaking about the “the good work” God is doing in the believers. I want you to know husbands that your helper is apart of the work God is creating in you. Husbands this is why when we go out in public with our spouse she says, don’t embarrass us today.

We are to encourage, correct in love, and help develop each other into the person God leading us to be. Our main goal as married couples should not be, status, or wealth, but to improve in our character, so that both of us will make it to heaven to stand before God to hear the words, well done good and faithful servant.

This is why spouses must be good friends first. Most people would not agree with the friendship piece of the marriage, but when you look at your spouse, they know your deepest secrets, fears, favorite foods, favorite movies and more. Keller uses Proverbs 2:17, which speaks as your wife as an allup meaning special confidant (best friend). My next point is the phrase:

II. **We are Friends First**

The friendship is the hinge that the relationship swings on. If you start to loose your physique or looks, you can still hang on to your friendship, even when you have fights (friend fight dont they?).

Genesis 2:21-23: 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs[a] and closed up the opening. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. 23 “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from ‘man.’”

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When God made women he extracted her from Adam. They were one, but now separate, waiting to join back together and become one. We are always longing to be with a partner, someone to fill the empty void of a relationship. When a man finds a wife, he finds the missing rib, the missing piece of his life, the rib has a need to find a body to join. This is what makes us one, when we join together never thinking on separating. This is why we can not get involved with fair-weather friends as Keller would describe it. We need to be with someone who can hang tight through the rough times and good times.

I bet 70% of the men in here met their spouse when they were either in or coming out of the roughest part of their lives. A spouse is a best friend sent by God, you complement each other, are able to be honest with each other. This also reflects our relationship with Christ as his brides. We can't run away from Christ just because things are not going our way or because we can't have everything we want. What are you in the relationship for, gifts? Most people want a made ready insta bake spouse, no one wants to go through the process of going from being single and conforming into a married couple. This is why you see some people going after someone already married. You don't know what it took to get that person to that mature state they are in. There is not rushing, shortcuts in a good marriage, it's a process, everybody starts somewhere. Your spouse is the best part of you, to get you through the challenges in life and if it is going to happen you must be friends first.

III. Your Spouse is your Responsibility

We can see this in the relationship Christ has with His bride (the church) in Ephesians 5:27-28, as *He cleans the church with the washing of the word and presents the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything like that but Holy and blameless*. In the end you are going to have to show account of everything God has given you to subdue and your spouse is a part of that equation. At your spouses funeral or even at your own, we are giving back to God what he has given to us. How are you going to give your spouse back, the same way you got them or better? Did you help with their spiritual growth? When I hear Jesus is washing the church with his word, it reminds me of loving my spouse so they can reflect the image of God, even if they make mistakes. Im giving them back to God better than I found them. You can change a person with forgiveness and love, verse trying to force them to change.

Jesus says in John 17:12 *While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by[c] that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled*. God trusted Jesus with people and God trusts you with a spouse, what will your spouse say about the way you took care of them?

Close

The mission of marriage is not about status, but it is about an Eternal Friendship, just like the friendship we have with Christ. You may be stuck in a bad marriage, you may be at the crossroads of getting engaged, but you may be scared of marriage or never seen a good one in your life and you think you can never reach the standard of a good spouse. The first things I want to offer you is prayer and Jesus Christ. The second is we have enough beautiful married couples in this church that can help lead you to a successful marriage. (Pray/Lords Prayer)