

MARRIAGE AND MINISTRY: WHAT REALLY MATTERS

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WorshipGod22: Unchanging

I. Intro:

How do marriage and ministry work together in a way that honors Christ, reflects lives transformed by the gospel, and brings glory to God?

II. Husbands:

A. My marriage is my first ministry.

B. Marriage is a calling to pursue, not a status to be maintained.

1. Pursue growing understanding.

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7, ESV)

2. Pursue growing affection.

“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,” (Ephesians 5:29, ESV)

3. Pursue growing Christ-likeness (Eph. 5:27)

- C. My wife is my helper not my opponent, my co-laborer not my competitor.

*“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since **they are heirs with you of the grace of life**, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7, ESV)*

- D. Preparing for sacrifices in ministry is better than trying to make up for them.

III. Wives

- A. I'm to center my life and goals around my husband rather than insisting he submit to mine.

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” (Ephesians 5:22–24, ESV)

- B. I'm not a martyr for fulfilling the role God has called me to.

“The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.” (Psalm 16:5–6, ESV)

- C. Being married doesn't mean always being together.

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.” (Titus 2:3–5, ESV)

- D. God works more through my truthfulness and trusting him than my manipulation and silence.

“For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.” (1 Peter 3:5–6, ESV)

IV. Husbands and Wives

- A. Root your lives in the gospel.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6–7, ESV)

- B. The gospel enables us to forgive just like God does: completely, finally, wholeheartedly, and undeservedly.

“You who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here [at the cross] may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.”

The blood of the Lamb is like a great river of infinite grace with never any diminishing of its fullness, as thirsty ones without number drink of it.
(*Valley of Vision*, “Calvary’s Anthem.”)