

## WEDDED BLISS

### INTRODUCTION:

The Bible Begins and Ends with a Marriage.

As soon as everything is created then God established marriage. Adam and Eve

At the end of the Bible

Revelation 21:1-2, 9 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth,"<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

Marriage can flourish.

So how do we do that?

#### I. FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST

Puritan Preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote "Fathers, and mothers, husbands, wives or children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean." (A Lifelong Love, Gary Thomas, 59)

### WE START TO EMBRACE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Ephesians 5:1 called "dearly beloved children"

Isaiah 40:29 He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We committed cosmic treason against God with our sin.

### WE REMEMBER WE WILL FACE GOD AND ANSWER FOR OUR ACTIONS

At the Bema Seat of Christ or the Judgement Seat of Christ we receive rewards for our actions. (this is not how we are saved)

Paul says that we will be rewarded for "whatever good we do." Not whatever good we receive'

Stop and think about this. It's revolutionary really.

You see at judgment you will not be asked "how well did your spouse love you?" No you will be asked "How well did you love your spouse?"

## II. PURSUE A \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Maybe today you should ask your spouse to finish this statement "I feel most loved when you . . ."

Wives you aren't left out in this call to love. The Holy Spirit tells older women to teach or urge younger women to love their husbands.

Titus 2:4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,

One great question as a Christian couple to ask yourselves. Does our marriage stand out? Does it point people to Jesus?

Let me close with an example of a marriage that did. One where we see an example of sacrificial love.

A Christian leader Robert McQuilken chose to resign his position as the president of Columbia International University because his wife had Alheimers and he felt like he needed to dedicate himself to her care full time. Let me share with you his resignation speech.

### RECOMMENDED MARRIAGE BOOKS:

The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman

Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Love and War by John and Stasi Eldredge

Laugh Your Way To a Better Marriage by Mark Gungor

A Lifelong Love by Gary Thomas

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas