

Pendleton First

Opening: Today we want to give practical examples on how to strengthen your marriage that are found in scripture. Marriage has a blueprint found in the word of God. Loving our spouses takes effort on our part, but we should be encouraged that God’s love is the ultimate glue that can hold to souls together for a lifetime.

1. Special blessings for the Marriage Covenant

- a. **Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.**
- b. **Deuteronomy 24:5 When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.**
- c. God has proclaimed His blessing and favor over the marriage covenant. God is pleased when we not only get married but chose our marriage over other things.
- d. Why does God do this? **Isaiah 62:5 As a young man marries a young woman, so will your builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.** ** Marriage is God’s heartbeat for humanity, His covenant is
- e. Notice in Deuteronomy that God called for a year of rest for one year so a man could be “Happy with his wife”. Our Marriage to our spouse should bring us great Joy and happiness. We should become satisfied in the embrace of our spouse.
- f. God’s favor is attached exclusively to His will. When we find His will for our life in marriage, we will obtain favor to succeed in that relationship.
 - i. **Hebrews 13:4** says Marriage is to be honored by all.
 - ii. Marriage shows your ability to keep your word to God and to man. For this reason, it is a sign of responsibility, maturity, integrity, and good character all of these traits are needed in our world today. Marriage is favorable because it reveals the person

has having good sense and a honorable nature who chooses what is right and good.

iii. **1st Corinthians 13:11** When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.

g. **Life Lesson:** There are very few things in life that will mature and strengthen a person more than biblical marriage. If done God's way it will make you the best version of yourself in every way possible.

2. The works of Love

a. **It is patient:** long-tempered, able to put up with a great deal without losing its cool. Love will outlast the trial by enduring it.

i. **Practical application:** When your spouse is having a hard day and is grumpy, love will cut them slack and give them space to vent. Love will endure and keep calm through emotional outbursts due to temporary conflicts.

b. **It is kind:** Love is warmhearted, gentle, considerate, and sympathetic to the needs of others above itself.

i. **Practical application:** Love in kindness will lift burdens from your spouse that they would normally be responsible for. A kind spouse show love by listening to the needs of there spouse. A kind spouse will not be forceful with their spouse even during disagreements.

c. **It is not Jealous: Love** is not seeking to obtain or disrupt the advantages of others. Love rejoices and celebrates the blessings others enjoy.

i. **Practical application:** In marriage love will rejoice for their spouse when they succeed in life, business, family. Love will even promote the spouse and celebrate when they are growing, resting, or achieving a goal in life. Spouses are happy when their husband or wife flourishes in other relationships with the same sex as long as they are not forgotten in the process.

d. It is not braggadocios or arrogant:

i. 1st John 2:16 (Amplified) For all that is in the world—the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [**pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things**—these do not come from the Father but are from the world.

ii. Practical application: Husbands and wives will not take the credit for success in there life as exclusively from there own efforts but will give glory to God and appreciation to there spouses as success is a team effort. We will not base our success or failure on earthy positions or possessions.

e. It does not dishonor others: It is not rude, insulting, course, intending to stir up offense to harm another. It does not gossip or slander another person.

i. Practical application: When a disagreement arises in the home, love will not lash out and demean a spouse to manipulate for a desired outcome.

f. It is not seeking its own benefit: Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

i. Practical application: husbands and wives are sacrificing for the benefit of the marriage, the success of the home and for the benefit of the other. A husband or wife will delay the purchase of something they have desired, to instead bless their spouse. A husband will not go out with the guy friends when his spouse is tired and needs rest and instead stay home and serve to relieve his spouse.

g.It is not easily angered.

- i. Practical application:** It's better to walk away during a disagreement, to take a breather and come back to resolve the situation after cooler heads have prevailed.
- h. It keeps no record of wrongs.**
 - i. Practical application:** Husbands and wives will not bring up the forgiven past to manipulate the future.
- i. It does not find pleasure in evil things.**
 - i. Practical application:** Love does not enjoy , champion, or support wickedness, sin, violence in their household and does not encourage their spouse to participate with them. Love will not drag a spouse into their own sin struggles to participate with them. Love exposes evil and works to help a spouse who has fallen short.
- j. It rejoices with the truth.**
 - i. Practical application:** Husbands and wives will study the bible together, will make church a priority in there home and will keep each other accountable to walk in the truth.
- k.It protects the confidences of others.**
 - i. Practical application:** **Love** does not share what is meant to be private and sacred with others.
- l. It trusts, believes.**
 - i. Practical application:** It is not skeptical of those it should trust; it is willing to trust and willing to rebuild trust if necessary.
- m. It keeps hope alive.**
 - i. Practical application:** Love will believe and work for the best future even if present realities discourage it.
- n. It perseveres and endures.**
 - i. Practical application:** If your marriage is on the rocks, love fights until victory and is not easily overcome. Love will put up with many trials, hardships, pains and sorrows to reveal itself.
- o. Love never fails.**

i. Practical application: Even when the desired and worked for outcome has not been achieved, love will continue to love because its ultimate victory is found in the victory of Jesus. **To have loved purely, deeply and sincerely is the victory.**

3. Conclusion: Jesus showed us great and perfect love through His life. Let us take communion to remember that love more perfectly so that we may demonstrate it to our world and to our spouses.