

# KINGDOM ESSENTIALS: MARRIAGE, PARENTING AND A GENERATIONAL VISION

## *“The Kind of Marriage that Manifests the Kingdom”*

Part Two - (Genesis 1:26-28; Ephesians 5:22-33)

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*<sup>28</sup>And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion’ ...” (Genesis 1:26-28)*

### **Tending the Garden**

Adam's job in the Garden was to "tend and keep" or "cultivate and guard." A deeper study of these words shows that in combination, tending or cultivating is a form of keeping it both in the natural and the spiritual. How is this best achieved? First, there must be ...

#### **❖ A Health Marriage Requires Focus**

- There Needs to be Attention

*“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.” (Ephesians 5:28-29)*

- There Needs to be Appreciation
- There Needs to be Affection (*1 Corinthians 7:3-5*)

- ▶ Intimacy, Affection and Physical Connection are Legitimate Needs
- ▶ Intimacy, Affection and Physical Connection are of Mutual Benefit
- ▶ Intimacy, Affection and Physical Connection are a Spiritual Responsibility

## ❖ A Health Marriage Requires Flexibility

- You will have conflict and disagreement in your marriage; it is unavoidable.
- There will be some subjects that you never agree on or see the same way.
- Your willingness to be flexible is a mark of true love.

Flexibility is taught in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and 1 Peter 3:7. Here's what they say,

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)*

*"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)*

## ❖ A Healthy Marriage Requires Faithfulness

In our permissive, irresponsible, and escapist mentality, commitment has almost become a dirty word (Psalm 12:1; Proverbs 20:6).

Faithfulness to the covenant is the key to permanence in marriage.

### ❖ **A Healthy Marriage Requires Forgiveness**

No marriage can make it without forgiveness.

Resentment kills communication, feelings, and trust. When your spouse hurts you, you have one of two options: you can either rehearse it or you can release it.

Forgiveness is focusing on how much God has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).