

A Supernatural Marriage:

God's Lessons from 40 Years of Marriage

Ephesians 5:18-31



I. Christian Marriage is the Union of Two Imperfect People Redeemed by Christ

Eph. 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

Eph. 4:17-18 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

- At every stage of life, every Christian will always have areas that still need to be transformed by God's grace.
- When entering marriage, remember that both you and your spouse will have strengths and weaknesses.
- A fulfilling and satisfying marriage is still possible—even with the flaws and shortcomings of both husband and wife.

II. The Well-Being of a Family Depends on the Spiritual Growth of Husband and Wife

Eph. 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

Eph. 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Eph. 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The more you live by the Gospel, the more you will understand your need for Christ's forgiveness, the more you will value the fact that Christ forgives you, and the greater will be your desire and ability to forgive your husband or wife.

Rom. 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

The deeper we understand the Gospel, the more we recognize what Christ has done for us, the more we see the horror of our sin and the power of Christ's grace, the more we will accept each other with our flaws and issues.

When you encounter the flaws of your husband or wife, remember that you have flaws too; you also often fall short of what the Lord requires. You also need to be accepted. Your shortcomings also need to be endured. You also need to be forgiven. Don't think highly of yourself, and life will be easier for you.

Eph. 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

1 Pet. 3:1-4 Likewise, wives, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

Do you want to make your family better?
Do you want your family life to be enjoyable and joyful?
Take care of your spiritual growth.
Do everything you can to become more like Christ
and to help your husband/wife grow in Christlikeness.

III. Love is the Fruit of Spiritual Growth

2 Tim. 3:1-5 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be **lovers** of self, **lovers** of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **heartless** (unloving), unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, **not loving** good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers** of pleasure rather than **lovers** of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

In the last days...	
<u>People will love:</u>	<u>People will not love:</u>
Themselves	One another in the family
Money	Kindness
Pleasures	God

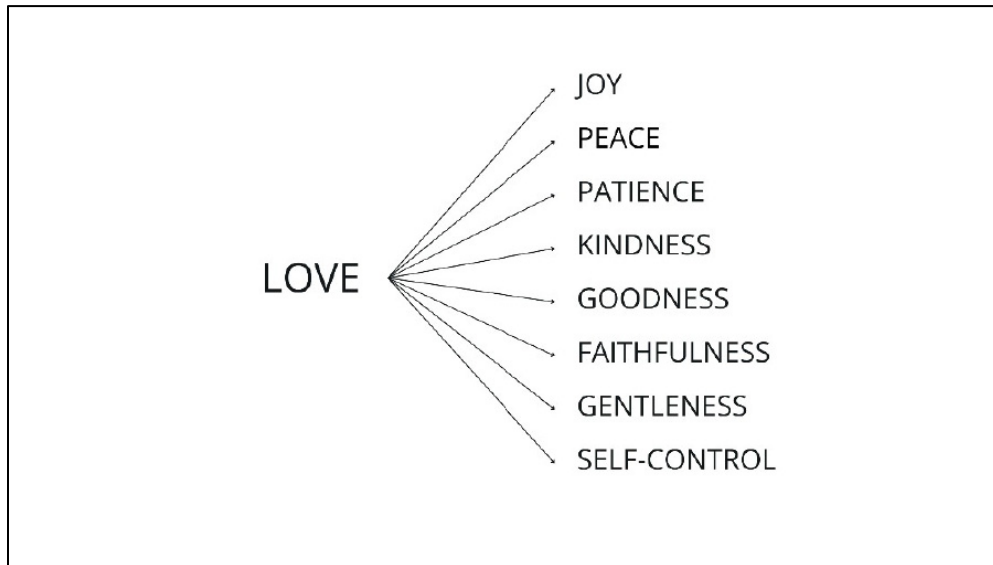
1 John 4:16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Eph. 3:16-19 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—**that you, being rooted and grounded in love**, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

«...these are multiple characteristics of but one fruit and are therefore inextricably related to one another. They are not produced nor can they be manifested in isolation from each other».¹



Eph. 5:18-21 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- The Holy Spirit seals or connects us with Christ (Eph. 1:13).
- The Holy Spirit integrates us into the Body of Christ (Eph. 2:19-20).
- The Holy Spirit strengthens us from within, filling us with Christ (Eph. 3:16-18).
- The Holy Spirit transforms us into the image of Christ (Eph. 4:20-32).
- The Holy Spirit, filling us with Himself, makes us capable of building a family (Eph. 5:18-31).

Eph. 5:18-21 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **addressing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody** to the Lord with your heart, **giving thanks always and for everything** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ.

- The ability to address one another
- Joy in the Lord
- Giving thanks always and for everything
- The ability to put others' interests above your own.

¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). *Galatians* (p. 164). Moody Press.

It is impossible to grasp the true meaning and find real satisfaction in any area of life without first finding it in Jesus Christ.

It is impossible to achieve lasting happiness in marriage without first finding personal happiness in Jesus Christ.

A Christian marriage is not founded on the expectation of receiving joy from your partner, but on the desire to bring into the relationship the joy that we receive from Christ.

A healthy Christian family, bringing joy and fulfillment, is possible only to the extent that you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Love in marriage is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the husband and wife.

IV. God's Work – the Main Means by Which Marriage is Built Up

Eph. 1:15-17 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in **the knowledge of Him**.

Eph. 1:18-19 Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might.

Ps. 127:1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

- Seek God's work in your family!
- Pray for God's work in you and in your husband/wife!
- Expect God's work to transform your family.
- Treasure God's blessing in your life.
- Be thankful to God for your family.

Practical Conclusions

- A Christian marriage is a union of two imperfect people redeemed by Christ.
- The well-being of the family depends on the spiritual growth of the husband and wife.
- Love is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the spouses.
- God's work is the main source of a family's growth.