



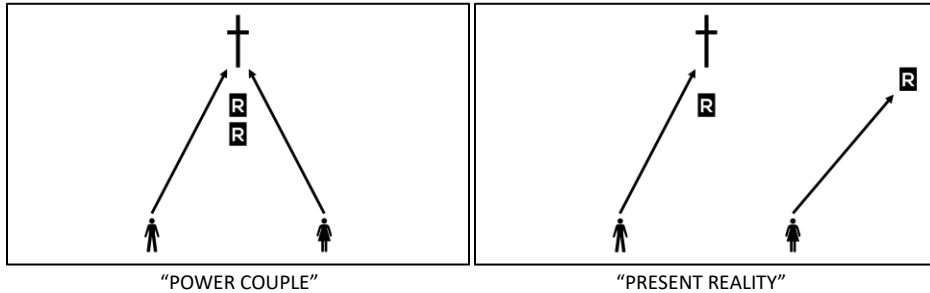
WEEK 3: SALVATION-DRIVEN SUFFERING, SUBMISSION, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

WHAT IF I/WE NEED TO DO A DEEP DIVE ON WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT UNIQUE ISSUES MY MARRIAGE IS FACING?

- Follow the links under “Find a counselor” on www.biblicalcounseling.com
- Follow the links under “Find a counselor” on biblicalcounselingcoalition.org

WHAT IF I AM IN A MARRIAGE WHERE ONE OF US IS ACTIVELY PURSUING CHRIST AND THE OTHER IS NOT?



1 Corinthians 7:10–16 - To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. ¹² To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST’S EXAMPLE IN SALVATION-DRIVEN SUFFERING, SUBMISSION, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR MANY BROKEN SCENARIOS (EVEN THOSE THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MARRIAGE)

1 Peter 3:1–4, 14–16 - Likewise, wives, be subject 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, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ 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.... But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet

do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

HUMILITY AND WILLFUL SUBMISSION FOR THE GOOD OF ANOTHER IS ALMOST UNIFORMLY OFFENSIVE TO PEOPLE IN WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS, BUT CENTRAL TO THE MISSION AND MESSAGE OF CHRIST

Mark 10:42–45 - And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (see also John 13:1–17, 15:12–17)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

HOW DOES JESUS’ EXAMPLE AND CALL TO FOLLOW HIM IN SALVATION-DRIVEN SUFFERING, SUBMISSION, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN MY REAL-WORLD DAY-TO-DAY LIFE?

1 Corinthians 9:19 - For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

DAY 1

Philippians 2:3–8 - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

IF YOUR FAITH HAS PUT YOU AT ODDS AND MADE YOU AN ENEMY WITH YOUR SPOUSE, HOW DOES THE WAY OF CHRIST EMPOWER YOU TO SLOW OR STOP THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL?

DAY 2

Luke 6:31–36 – “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³² If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”