

Marriage

The
3
*Bottom
Lines*



Purpose of Booklets

These are **Short Starter** Studies on **Sensitive** Subjects that **Stir & Stimulate** you toward **Biblical, Practical** Information that show that **Jesus has Great Answers** to some of life's **Hardest Questions**.

At www.FamilyBibleStudies.TIPS & the Family Bible Study App each booklet is a free download along with a short podcast explaining each booklet.

The website and App also has:

***Ten Terrific Tips to make
Family Bible Studies
Everyone's FAVORITE time of the week!***

The website and App also give lists of different **Categories** for the booklets as well as ways to use the booklets in:

1. Bringing **Friends to Christ**
2. As a Resource for **Pastor's Sermons**
3. **Small Group** Bible studies in a **Church**
4. As a **Resource** for Christian **Counselors**
5. Bible studies with **Friends** or **Co-workers**
6. For your own **Personal Growth & Bible Study**
7. Christian **Business Owners** to serve their **Customers** or **Employees**

What if I Don't Agree with What I Read?

There is always a good chance that I am wrong or that I have poorly communicated. I always encourage each person to research on your own. It may be that your research helps me and others to find God's heart more clearly.

We all seek His truth by the two Bible measures of:

1. what is **clear** and **consistent** in **God's Word** and
2. what bears the **Fruit of Jesus** in the lives of those who follow that application.

In heaven, all of God's purposes in God's Word will be clear and our actions will be aligned with God's Word. I constantly ask myself, what will we **act** like and **believe** when we are in **heaven**. This is my goal in these booklets.

"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

Table of Contents

1. **The Highest Hope, the Deepest Pain!**

Does this marriage have hope?

Are you committed to “*Equal Change*”? (pg. 1)

2. **Husband – what does my wife need?**

If my wife is bothered, then Jesus is bothered. (pg. 5)

3. **Wife – what does my husband need?**

You are my Hero! (pg. 8)

4. **5 Other Resources**

These people skills will help you succeed in every area of life.
(pg. 10)



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Chap. 1

The Highest Hope, the Deepest Pain!**Dreams Dashed!**

In almost 50 years of marriage counseling, I have had approximately 7,000+ marriage counseling sessions.

The **emotional investment** we make into another adult in marriage is the **highest** of adult emotional connections.

We get married because we **deeply desire** and **yearn** for that **best friend, soul mate** who will:

1. Always **be there** for us,
2. Always **believe** the **best** about us,
3. Bring **laughter, tenderness, & affection** into our daily lives,
4. Partner with us in **energizing life goals**,
5. Make us their **top priority** in all adult relationships.

When those **hopes die**, there are **no words** that can **describe** the **piercing, crushing pain** of a failed marriage.

Does this marriage have hope?

That is the bottom line question that everyone wants to know when they come to marriage counseling.

It is the question that the people ask, but it is **NOT** the question that **God** is asking.

Jesus is using the **pain** of marriage **strain** to **drill down** into the depth of each person's soul to ask two questions. They are:

1. Do you want your **mate** to **change MORE** than **you** change?
2. **WHY** did you get married?

If you **avoid** these questions, the pain and failure will always increase.

If you **embrace** these two questions, they will change you.

The Restful Requirement – Equal Change

Six times the Bible says that the purpose of marriage is that the

“Two shall become One!”

Gen. 2:24, Mal. 2:13-16, Mt. 19:5, Mk.10:8, I Cor. 6:16. & Eph. 5:31

The word “**one**” is so strong that it is impossible to divide or separate.

This Oneness includes Oneness in the **NEED** to **CHANGE**!

In 7,000+ marriage counseling sessions, it has never taken me more than a **few minutes** to see the **need** for **Equal Change** in both the husband and the wife!

It is a **Requirement** from God that **NO ONE** can ever escape but God’s **Goal** in this Requirement is to bring **REST** into our lives.

It brings **Rest** because there is tremendous **SAFETY** in the fact that Jesus wants **BOTH** mates to change equally. Now you are truly **PARTNERS** in the seeking Jesus together.

*I Pt. 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with **respect** as the weaker **PARTNER** and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

Here is a shocking statement that is 100% true.

*Every single couple whom I have counseled who embraced “Equal Change” is **still married today** and has a **fantastic** marriage.*

When couples embrace “Equal Change”,
People skills grow exponentially.

In every disagreement, both mates learn to negotiate and to keep considering different options until they find a strategy that is a “**Win**” for **BOTH** of them.

Understanding God’s “Oneness” in the mutual responsibility to change completely **Removes** the **Adversarial** aspect of marriage tensions. Since Jesus requires both of us to change equally, we no longer have to work so hard to attack our mate or to try to convince our mate that they need to change. We take our eyes OFF of each other and we both put our eyes on Jesus.

*Heb. 12:2 Let us **Fix** our **Eyes** on **Jesus!***

What about ABUSE situations

Sadly, I have seen hundreds of abuse situations.

In these cases, the **Abuser** obviously needs to change a lot.

However, the **Enabler** needs to change just as much. Things like boundaries, consequences and clear communication are all areas where Enablers need to change. Equal change applies to every marriage.

Sometimes though it takes a counselor to help find the equal change.

How does “Equal Change” affect our children?

All of the verses on the Bible command of “Oneness” in a marriage are valuable, but the most important one is in Mal. 2:15

*Mal. 2:15 Has not the **Lord** made them **ONE**?*

*In **flesh** and **spirit**, they are his.*

*And **WHY ONE**?*

*Because he was **Seeking Godly Offspring**.*

WOW! What a practical and powerful promise!

When children see both their dad and mom wanting to hear from Jesus together so that they can both grow and change in every tension situation, those children grow up **KNOWING** the **Jesus** is **real & powerful!**

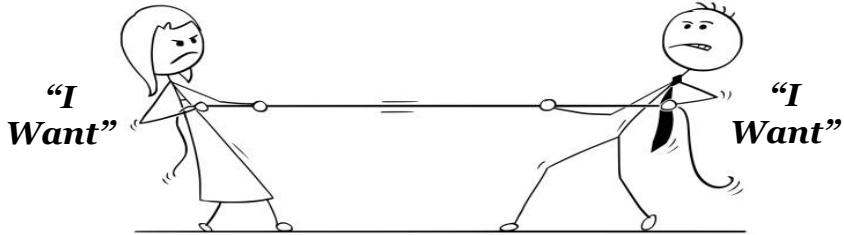
Please notice the word “**spirit**”. This is a spiritual issue. When we want to become like Jesus so much that we work together with our mate to find equal change, then our **spiritual focus** becomes **contagious** with our children.

*Jer. 17:10 But I, the **Lord**, **search all hearts** and examine **secret motives**.*

WHY did I get married?

Almost everyone has selfish motives for getting married. We don't realize how much our motives are selfish until marriage tensions arise.

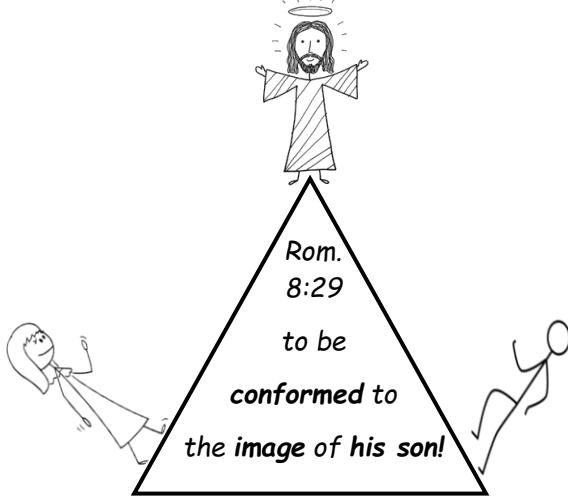
- Every answer for **why** we **got married** begins with the two poisonous words: “**I Want**”. (*love, security, support*)
- Every **ongoing marriage tension** involves **two people** who are **dominated** by those two words: “**I Want**”.



When marriage tensions arise, Jesus wants to use this horrible pain to expose our selfish motives and to set us free from the evil prison of **“I Want”**.

The only **safe motive** for why we get married begins with the word *Jesus*.

*“Jesus,
please **mold** me and shape me
to be **more like you!**” Rom. 8:29*



The closer we both draw to Jesus, the closer we come to each other.

When we both embrace *“Equal Change”* we are eager to help our partner draw closer to Jesus and to have them help us draw closer to Jesus!

The First Bottom Line

“Equal Change” is the starting place of every great Biblical marriage! It is also my one requirement **BEFORE** I meet with any couple. This is the main reason why I have seen amazing long term results in my marriage counseling.

Chap. 2

Husband – what does my wife need?

Do I understand “**Designated Authority**”

*Rom. 13:1 **All Authority** comes **from God***

- No human has unlimited authority!
- All authority comes from God!
- Any human authority is LIMITED by the PURPOSE of that Authority.

These concepts are very easy to understand when we look at ALL human authorities. While on this fallen planet here are the FEW areas where God shares a small portion of His authority - limited by the PURPOSE of that authority.

1. Government has some authority.
2. Teachers have some authority.
3. Parents have some authority.
4. Police have some authority.
5. Medical people have some authority.
6. Ministers have some authority.
7. Husbands have some authority.

The best way to understand this is to examine situations where a designated authority may OVERSTEP the boundaries of their authority.

Policemen have a God given purpose “**To Serve & Protect**”.

If a policeman went **beyond** that purpose and ordered you to shoot some innocent bystander, you would recognize that this policeman **NO LONGER** has authority because he has gone beyond his purpose.

Teachers have a God given purpose “**To Educate as an extension of the Parents!**”

If a teacher crosses that boundary and begins to beat your child physically with a belt, you would recognize that this teacher no longer has authority because they have gone beyond their purpose.

Ministers have a God given purpose “**To live and teach God’s Word & God’s heart to bring people closer to Jesus**”. The Bible commands us to **submit** to our spiritual leaders.

Heb. 13:17 Have confidence in your leaders and **Submit** to their **Authority**, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

In some warped cases, some ministers have greatly **abused** and **EXCEEDED** their limited authority and tried to go **BEYOND** their purpose. These deceived men tried to use this word “**Submit**” in Hebrews 13:17 to say that they can **Make Decisions** for the people under them in personal areas like **job, finances, who** they can **date** etc. These **bullies** are usually exposed as a **cult** and renounced by the overall Body of Christ.

The Husband’s Purpose and Limited Authority

The living God has stated six loud times in his word that the purpose of marriage is for the “**Two to become One**”. This is the purpose and limit of a husband’s authority.

Over many decades, I have seen two things clearly.

1. The **huge majority** of husbands do **NOT WANT** to have to make the decisions all by themselves. They love and appreciate that their “Job” is to bring “Oneness” in all decisions.
2. The few bullies who twist God’s Word to say that the husband has unlimited authority to make all decisions in the home are missing two points.
 - a. Their obvious bully heart is recognized by everyone except them.
 - b. They ignore or do not understand Gen. 3:16b.

Gen. 3:16 MB You’ll **want** to **please** your husband, but he’ll **lord** it over you.”
NASB your **desire** will be for your husband, And he shall **rule** over you

The curse on Eve was so painful. She was told that she would **KEEP** that desire for “Oneness” that both she and Adam had in the garden of Eden. Her horrible punishment was that God would **change Adam’s heart** to where he **no longer wanted** “Oneness” but wanted to “Rule”, “Dominate” & “Bully” his wife. This is NOT a blessing. God called it a **curse**.

Thankfully, Jesus broke the curse so that men can have humble hearts and seek to bless their wives by obeying Jesus command to have the “**Two become One!**”

The Practical Commitment!

When I do pre-marriage counseling, I ask every man to study these truths.

Once they understand them, I ask that husband if he is willing to make a verbal promise to his wife.

I ask him to say to his wife:

*"If something is bothering **you**,
then it is bothering **Jesus**.*

*I promise that I will **STOP** all **movement** in that direction
until we **TOGETHER** find **Jesus' heart** and
options & next **step strategies** for **moving forward**
that give us **both peace** and **hope**!*

Please notice that the husband is **NOT** committing to completely **FIX** the situation. In most cases, the Lord Jesus is **not** going to **show** this couple his **long term solution** until they walk through multiple research steps.

However, the husband can easily commit to finding **"Options and Next Step Strategies"** for moving forward that give both of them peace and hope.

I cannot describe to you how many thousands of husbands and wives have found **decades of peace, hope and harmony** as they make decisions **together**, because the **husband** was **determined** that **Jesus** is the **boss** in their home.

The husband is so happy to have a clear **JOB**!

His job is to always bring the team of husband and wife together to find **"Options and Next Step Strategies"** for moving forward that give both of them peace and hope.

Wife – what does my husband need?

The husband's soul – Protect or Attack / Friend or Foe!

Science has given us so much insight into the difference between the male brain and the female brain. Men have **10-20 times** as much testosterone as women. Testosterone is the “*Protect or Attack*”, “*Friend or Foe*” hormone.

This is why “Respect” is such a huge issue with men. Please notice that Paul’s summation in the longest passage in the Bible on marriage ends with these words:

*Eph. 5:33 the wife **Must RESPECT** her husband.*

Men are more Fragile in this area!

God made men the head of their homes because men are so focused on “Winning”!

Jesus assures us that if we bring our marriage into “Oneness”, then we will WIN in every area spiritually, relationally etc.

I try to explain to every wife that a man hears the word “*Failure*” in his mind hundreds of times a day, every day. Because we want to WIN in everything, we feel our failures much more deeply than our wins.

Thus, when our wives are complaining, irritated with us, critical of us or impatient with us, we **feel like complete failures** in life.

On the other hand, if a wise wife simply smiles with love and says to her husband: “*Will you be my HERO and...*” It does **not matter** what she is asking for. The **answer** is **YES!** A very **LOUD** Yes!

Men are puppy dogs. We so desire for our wives to be happy. Every husband knows the words: “*Happy wife / Happy _____!*”

The opposite is also true. A wife who complains, criticizes, is negative or easily irritated creates a massive dose of testosterone and the man wants to treat her as a “Foe”. He will either attack or run away.

Prov. 21:9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a nagging, quarrelsome, and faultfinding woman.

With my wife Beth, I shared with her many times in the first decade of our marriage:

*“I NEED for you to be happy!
I will do ANYTHING to make you happy,
But when you are NOT happy, I can’t breathe!”*

The Wife’s commitment to her husband.

I ask the wife to say these words to her husband:

*“My Love,
It means EVERYTHING to me that you will
STOP EVERYTHING when something bothers me
and that we will seek Jesus together until we find
Options and Next Step Strategies
that brings us both peace and joy.*

*In return, I recognize that you NEED me to be Happy!
It cuts you deeply when I am not happy, positive and thankful.*

*I promise to protect your fragile heart and to walk closely with Jesus
so that my life is filled with joy and thankfulness in all areas
but especially toward you.*

I will tell you often that you are my HERO!

Is the husband also expected to be cheerful & positive?

Absolutely! 100%! You can not ask of others what you are not willing to give yourself.

Every Christian is commanded to walk in these attitudes.

The goal of this chapter is to explain why men’s souls are so fragile in this area.

5 Other Resources

1 – Humility booklet

This booklet teaches you how a healthy soul can ask for advice while first requiring affirmations and then options. It makes it easy for a husband and wife to seek each other's advice regularly. This booklet will teach you high leadership skills that apply to all of life.

2 – Conflicts booklet

This booklet makes solving conflicts shockingly simple. You will find yourself applying the truths in this booklet to every area of your life.

3 – DISC Personality Gifts

This booklet make life fun and easy as you learn your individual personality gifts.

4 – Enter with Enthusiasm and Affirmation

This booklet teaches you how 2 seconds a day can drastically improve the direction of entire life.

5 – Weakness Welcomed

This booklet teaches you how to grow steadily in your people skills over decades.

Conclusion

God designed your marriage to teach you
people skills
that will help you **succeed**
in **every** area of your life.

We also have 100+ booklet studies that are currently or soon available.

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