

Where Are You in Your Marriage?

Let's walk a bit down memory lane! It's your wedding day and months of planning have finally brought you to the most wonderful day of your life. You had dreams, expectations and a great joy in what was to lie ahead. You courted your wife, won her affection and now you are face to face with your bride to be. The ceremony is a blur but you know that you vowed your love and life to your wife. The honeymoon was grand, and you returned home to begin your new life together, and you lived happily ever after!

1. Share with your group how you met, courted and fell in love with your wife.
2. Share with your group what you remember most about the ceremony.
3. Now here is a deep question and one to be honest with – Has turned out the way you wished, thought and prayed? Would you feel the freedom to express ways that your marriage is working and areas that need improvement.

Your Marriage is to be a picture of the beautiful love that God has for His people! In Scripture Christ is seen as the bride- groom and the church is seen as His Bride. Christ laid down His life for the church! He loved so much that He died for her. When you walked through your vows at your ceremony, you were committing to display that same kind of love!

And I want to ask you as a man and husband, have you displayed and do you continue to show Christlike love to your bride?

As I write this, I am preparing for a wedding of a young couple in our church. Both of their families are in our church and have been for a while, so the weekend is set to be a great "church" event. I am looking forward to this ceremony. I believe that this marriage will stand the test of time and will succeed because of their commitment to the Lord and their commitment to see Him glorified in their lives. I want to share with you what I will be challenging them and that is to live the vow out that they make on their wedding day. I am lifting the words of the ceremony and sharing them with you.

My charge to you first of all is this: As you received the Lord Jesus Christ, so walk in Him! Dustin and Danielle when you gave your lives to Christ you repented of your lifestyle of sin and rebellion to God and you embraced the Father through faith. You believed that what He did 2000 years ago, he did for you! As you have received Him by declaring Him Lord of your lives, continue to walk this out, individually as a man and woman of God, corporately as a husband and wife in relationship to the local church!

Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord , so walk in Him,

Marriages fail, or grow tough because the man and/or woman has not lived their lives in accordance to the commitment they made to Christ.

1. **How did you receive Christ?**
2. **Have you received Christ?**
3. **How are you to walk in Him?**
4. **What would be the result of the walking in this manner.**

Second, My charge to you is this: As you receive one another today so walk in it! Your marriage begins today with the vow to God and to one another. This vow will declare your promise as to how you will live with one another. This day is the beginning! And the success of your marriage will be in the measure of how you walk these vows out!

Marriages fail or grow tough because the man and/or woman have not lived their married lives in accordance to the commitment they made to one another!

Someone read the man's vow below. Fill in the blanks with your name and your wife's name.

_____ (the man) Your vow today will be to Love _____ (the wife) with the same kind of love that Christ loved you with. This commandment for you is found in Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; This love is a sacrificial love. It is a love that is

demonstrated by you laying down your life for _____ (your wife). This love will sanctify her and will minister life to her all the days of your marriage. It will also set the pace for the quality of your relationship. You are the spiritual head of your family. And this headship is designed not as a boss but a servant that lays down His life for His family. Your vow today will also be to Live with _____(your wife) in an understanding way and to grant her honor as a fellow heir of life. This commandment for you is found in **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands likewise, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1. What are the three main points of the vow we are to make to our wives?
2. What will loving our wives do in our marriage?
3. Do you find yourself laying down your life for your wife? Understanding her? Honoring Her?
4. What is the result of honoring our wives?

Hey Guys, I cannot emphasize this enough. For every couple that comes to me for counseling the same problem always comes up. The wife does not feel loved by her husband. She does not feel honored, and she definitely does not feel understood.

The failure of all marriages is found in not walking in the manner by which they received one another!

The Success of all marriages is found in walking in the manner by which they received one another!

I have to ask you to do two things:

1. Examine your relationship to your wife! Are you loving her, Understanding her, and Honoring her?

Give some examples how you might do these three things.

If I were to ask your wife, "Does you feel loved by your husband? Does He understand you? Does He honor you?"

2. If you are lacking, would you ask her to forgive you and begin now to make the appropriate changes?

How will you improve or change where you are suppose to be your marriage as a husband?