

THRIVING: In Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Marriage is one of the greatest blessings we have to enjoy. Unfortunately, too many couples enter the marriage relationship not understanding the work and effort that are required.
- B. God created marriage for man's own good (Gen. 2:18).
- C. God expects us to prioritize our marriages (Gen. 2:24). For a lot of people, the longer they are married, the less they prioritize their marriage. Let's consider some ways we can prioritize our marriage.

HONOR AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER

- A. Paul says that wives are to submit to their own husbands as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22-24). By submitting to their husband, a wife is demonstrating both honor and respect.
- B. Peter says that husbands are to live with their wives in an understanding way and show them honor so that their prayers may not be hindered (I Pet. 3:7).
- C. The value of our spouse is seen through how we honor and respect them.

NURTURE AND CARE FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP

- A. Many marriages fail because over time, one or both parties, fail to nurture and care for their relationship (Eph. 5:29). We must continue to always make time for our spouse.
- B. Treat your spouse the way you would like for your spouse to treat you (Matt. 7:12).
- C. Be willing to make sacrifices for your spouse and marriage (Eph. 5:25).

TALK WITH AND FORGIVE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HURT

- A. It's sometimes easy to forget, but we must remember that our spouse is human and humans make mistakes. There will be times your spouse says or does something that really hurts you.
- B. When that happens, be willing to talk with your spouse. If they repent and ask for your forgiveness, be willing to forgive them (Lk. 17:3-4).
- C. Learn to let go of past mistakes and the things you have already forgiven (Isa. 43:25).

CONCLUSION:

- A. If we want our marriages to thrive, we must seek first the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33).
- B. When we put God first in our lives, our attitudes and actions toward our spouse will get better.
- C. Let's put in the effort so our marriages thrive the way God intended for them to thrive.