

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Marriage – Gospel Commitments – Lesson 03

Chapter Three – Whose Kingdom?

What goes wrong? Why do marriages fall apart? Two mistakes:

- (1) they think the _____ has destroyed their dream, or
- (2) they think _____ have destroyed their dream. (p. 49).

In reality, the horizontal battles are the fruit of a deeper war (p. 49).
How do we see what's really going on?

1. Consider that maybe what you thought was _____ was not *actually* _____. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).
 - a. Before Christ, we lived for _____. This “personal kingdom” lifestyle is _____.
 - b. Sin is essentially _____ - _____ (p. 50).
 - c. Sin reduces people to *objects*, either:
 - i. _____ to help us get what we want, or
 - ii. _____ in the way of what we want.
 - d. After Christ, we have two “kingdom” options: to live for myself, or to live for _____.
 - e. The death of your _____ is not the end of marriage. Instead, it is the opportunity to move from _____ - _____ to *true love*. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:7-11).
 - f. Sometimes we are _____ with God by this process of dying to our selfish dreams, but this just reveals how deep our loyalty-to-self is imbedded in us.
2. See the ___ of the Savior and ___ for the One who died for You.

3. Show the world, beginning with your _____, what His love is like.

Chapter Four – Day by Day

1. Living this way – for the One who died for You – takes daily, “_____ - _____” habits.
2. Living for the One who died for You in the little moments has a _____: living for ourselves, which results in _____.
3. However, the gospel compels us to live as _____ (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).
4. Living for the One who died for You in the little moments is helped by three _____ principles:
 1. _____ Mentality (Galatians 6:7).
 2. _____ Mentality (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
 3. _____ Mentality (Ephesians 4:32).

Gospel Foundations

1. The gospel shapes my expectations for marriage (Ch. 1).
2. The gospel gives me reason to continue (Ch. 2).
3. The gospel teaches me about true love (Ch. 3).
4. The gospel compels me to live for the One who died for me, in all the little moments of life (Ch. 4).

Gospel Commitments

1. We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness (Ch. 5-6).
2. We will make growth and change our agenda (Ch. 7-8).
3. We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust (Ch. 9-10).
4. We will commit to building a relationship of love (Ch. 11-12).
5. We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace (Ch. 13-14).
6. We will work to protect our marriage (Ch. 15-17).

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Scenario: You spouse is frustrated that you arrived home late for dinner. While you feel bad about being late, it was because of an accident on the highway and there was little you could do. Regardless, your spouse is now cold and short with you. After a frustrating commute home, this is not at all how you wanted the evening to go. You have two main options:

- a. Fight for your own Kingdom. You scold your spouse for her insensitivity. She's punishing you for something you had no control over. You've had a long day and don't deserve to be treated this way. She needs to change her attitude fast. You return the coldness and irritability until she decides to ask for forgiveness.
- b. Live for God's Kingdom. While you quickly recognize that your spouse is sinning against God, you pause to remember how God treats you in your sin. He's patient, compassionate, and gentle while He helps you to see what needs to change. So, you ask your spouse, "Sweetheart, it seems like something is not right between us, what is going on?" As she explains, you work hard to listen and understand. While her explanation includes a few more jabs and insults, you continue to pursue her in love and grace – just like Jesus treats you. As you listen, you realize what a long day she's had, and come to understand that even though you couldn't control the traffic, you could have loved her well by letting her know about the delay. So, you respond, "Thank you for helping me to understand. I can see how frustrating that would have been. I'll try to do better in the future to let you know when traffic is bad and I expect to be late."

Now, pretend you found yourself in a similar scenario. If you heard yourself think or say the following things, what might you conclude about your heart? Are you living for the One who died for you, or are you living for self? Are you serving His Kingdom, or trying to build your own? Write either "Self" or "Savior" in the blank below to signify that the words might reveal about your heart.

- _____ 1. Why can't she just stop sinning and live more like me?
- _____ 2. Lord, help me to see my part in this and grow to be more like Jesus.
- _____ 3. He usually calms down if I give him a backrub – then maybe we can just have a quiet evening.
- _____ 4. Honey, you seem upset, would you like to talk about it?
- _____ 5. This is the fourth time this week she has responded this way – why can't she get this figured out?
- _____ 6. Lord, you are patient with me, help me to show patience to her.
- _____ 7. Well, she's in one of those moods again...maybe there's some work I can do in the garage.
- _____ 8. Lord, you move toward me and help me, even when I'm sinning. Help me to move toward her with love and compassion.
- _____ 9. You never listen to what I'm saying, and you're never going to change!
- _____ 10. Lord, help me to see my own sin rather than focus on my spouse's sin.