



Cultivating a Marriage that Perseveres

May 28, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: GENESIS 2:18-25; EPHESIANS 5:21

Jesus persevered for us and, in so doing, models for every marriage how to remain committed to your spouse and family when the going gets tough. Right now is the time to begin living like the husband or wife that you want to become.



NOTES

Six keystones needed to build God's best for your home:

1. Presence
2. Perseverance
3. Preparation
4. Protection
5. Prayer
6. Participation

"... In our image, to be like us."

Genesis 1:26

Marriage and Perseverance

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Right now is the time to begin living like the husband or wife that you want to become.

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."

Genesis 2:7

"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two are united into one flesh. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame."

Genesis 2:23-25

The man and woman felt fully needed... fully known... and fully embraced - the purest definition of marriage. 'Naked and without shame.'

God created you in love for love to join together with another in the sacred union of covenantal love between one man and one woman to form a family for God's continued work of transforming love through you!

If indeed marriage and family truly represents the heart of God's love and fellowship, then the wicked way of the enemy is hostility and division.



“He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

1 Peter 5:8

The enemy’s aim is to dismantle creation by destroying the love and fellowship given in marriage that defines the character of our triune God.

“For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus persevered for us and, in so doing, models for every marriage how to remain committed to your spouse and family when the going gets tough.

Perseverance means ‘not giving up.’

“...showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8

Our God is a persevering God!

How does a marriage live like this?

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21

Jesus in the Garden – “Not my will, but yours be done.”

Luke 22:42

Mutual submission in marriage is like a triangle with Jesus at the top and the husband and wife at the bottom two corners.

Mutual submission means that I yield my way to God’s way for my spouse and me.

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”

Ephesians 5:31

It is similar to how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are one.

“Love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”



Ephesians 5:25

Couples who choose to live in mutually submitted relationships are choosing to trust that 1 + 1 = abundance.

Your joys are doubled, your peace is doubled, and your comfort is doubled.

At the same time, your pain is halved, your burdens are halved, and your concerns are halved. Paul describes this as a 'profound mystery' in Ephesians 5:32.

What if you could learn to view your spouse as God's good gift for you to experience the profound mystery of God's deep love and unity?

"For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory."

2 Corinthians 1:20

Three ways to begin building a persevering marriage:

1. Staying Curious

"When we stay curious, with humility about the possibility that we haven't figured it out, then there is more that can be discovered." – Francesca Gina, Professor at Harvard Business School

"The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out."

Proverbs 20:5

Your spouse is like a deep well, and every curious question that you ask draws up insights like buckets of sweet water.

Curiosity is the overcoming anecdote to conflict and stagnation, so pursue curiosity.

2. Remaining Committed to Tomorrow

"Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry."

Ephesians 4:26

'I love you, I am committed to you, and we will work together to resolve this situation.'

Some conflicts need more time than a single day to resolve.

"I hate divorce!" says the Lord.



Malachi 2:16

Sometimes marriage doesn't work out – abuse, abandonment, addiction, adversity, adultery.

When we fall short of God's ideal for marriage and the broken pieces fall, the way we overcome divorce is the same way we overcome all sin in our life... by turning from our way to Jesus, receiving his forgiveness, forgiving those who wronged us, and trusting his way to lead us.

Remaining committed to tomorrow develops grit in you to lead your marriage to go the distance. As you gain more wins, trust grows, love grows, joy grows, and commitment grows.

3. Trusting God's Word and Prayer

Do you read God's Word with your spouse?

Do you pray with your spouse?

Invite God to “stand in the GAP” with you.

- Gratitude: Thank you, Lord, for your presence with me.
- Admission: I admit my need. I don't have it all together.
- Provision: Please forgive me and show me your grace.

Pick a time to pray and share a verse that works, and commit to it – even if it's just for a few minutes.

Don't underestimate the power of small gains every day over the course of years.

A persevering faith leads to a persevering marriage.

The call of a husband — to lead by giving, and not taking — shows us Jesus, who did not protect himself and his own comfort, but sacrificed himself for us.

Jesus' love for his church is the ultimate meaning of marriage.

What is the secret sauce to a persevering marriage? Mutual submission.

