

**How are we to think properly about the family?** The world does not know us because it does not know Him, 1 John 3:1. The church is commanded not to love the world (systems, beliefs, operation), 1 John 2:15-17.

- What is our motivation in marriage? Is it to do good things so we can have a good marriage and enjoy our marriage? The world tells us to follow certain principles to get certain results.
- The proper motivation is not results but to bring glory to God.
- 1. Proper Motivation for Family: the world cannot grasp this truth: Your marriage and family are a way for you to present worship to God. Not for our glory but for His, Psalm 115:1.
  - a. Do I want to obey the commands of Christ as found in Scripture?
  - b. Will I grow so that my family gives more worship to the Lord?
- 2. Attack of the Christian Family: Christian families look like the world's families. The attack has been successful. The view of men, women, children, career, work, and family purpose have all been re-defined by the world and not according to Scripture.
- 3. Approach of this Series: to provide the meat and truth from Scripture. It will be starkly biblical. The world has nothing to say to my family. Our response will be obedience and repentance or rejection and excuse. The truth of Scripture will mold us and make us into the likeness of Christ, Gal. 4:19.

**10 Tests that Examine if I Really Desire to Give Glory to God in My Marriage and Family:**

1. God Created and Designed the Family: Ps. 24:1, God owns everything, we don't dictate to Him the purpose and plan for the family. God created man and woman and gave them marriage to reveal His character and love, Gen. 1:24-28, 2:18. It is a grace to both Christian and non-Christian. It is a good thing, Prov. 18:22. Marriage is a gift and there is a gift to remain unmarried, 1 Cor. 7:7. Peter calls it the "grace of life," 1 Peter 3:7. Marriage is a man and woman becoming one flesh, Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:5, Mark 10:8, 1 Cor. 6:16, Eph. 5:31.
2. Spouses Belong to Each Other: It is not a contractual relationship. They belong to one another, Song of Solomon 2:16, 6:3. With regards to sexual intimacy they are a gift to each other, 1 Cor. 7:1-5. We are to prefer them, love them, care for them, and desire the very best for them.
3. Genuine Christians Submit to Scripture in the Home: John 15:5, we are to bear fruit and abide (remain) in Him.
  - 1 Cor. 11: 3, in marriage it is a functionally subordinate relationship. God is head over Christ, Christ head over the man, the man is the head of a woman. Jesus submitted to the Father's will, John 5:19, 6:38. We submit ourselves to the law of Christ and His will, 1 Cor. 11:3.
    - a. The word for "head" in 1 Cor. 11:3 does not work when translated as "source." It would change the deity of Jesus to Him being a created being. Women are to submit to their husbands for the sake of the Lord, Eph. 5:22.
  - In the family, parents are commanded to teach their children about the Lord, Eph. 6:4. Believing children are to obey their parents, Eph. 6:1.
4. Marriage and Family Sanctifies Me: Progressive sanctification is a gift of God being transformed into Christlikeness, or from glory to glory, 2 Cor. 3:18.
  - A difficult marriage is a result of sin, Gen. 3:16.
  - Wives are commanded to demonstrate conduct that wins their husband, 1 Peter 3:1-2.
  - Husbands are to give their lives for and be an example of Christ to their wives, Eph. 5:25-26.
  - Fathers are to teach their children the ways of the Lord and not provoke them to anger, Eph. 6:4.
5. Marriage and Family Prove My Love for Christ: Obeying God's word and pleasing Christ are means of worship. It eliminates all excuses for disobedience.
  - Is my marriage seen as a way to be rewarded for bringing glory to the Lord?
  - We treat our husbands/wives as we would treat Christ in our homes and lives.

6. Christian Marriage is a Gift from God: Titus 2:4, young women are taught to love their husbands. Any man receiving a wife from the Lord is to cherish her. Mutual love for one another is commanded. Feelings follow love and obedience to the Lord. Husbands love their wives as a gift from God, Song 1:5-15.
7. Christian Marriage is Sealed in Loving Intimacy: Sexual intimacy is a sign and seal of covenant marriage. The rainbow, circumcision, and the Holy Spirit are seals and signs of covenants. The marriage bed is good and pure and protects one another from sexual sin when maintained and enjoyed, Heb. 13:4, 1 Cor. 7:3-4. Do not deprive one another, 1 Cor. 7:5.
8. Christian Marriage is a Divine Reflection: 1) Man and woman in marriage are an image of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Gen. 1:27. 2) God and Israel. Hosea 2:14, God pursues Israel and loves the nation He swore to keep and be faithful to. 3) Christ and the Church. Rev. 19:9, Eph. 5:22-23. Application: In our marriages, we have a duty to accurately reflect God's character and love.
9. Christian Spouses Sacrificially Give to One Another: Col. 3:19, husbands are to be kind and gentle to their wives, protecting their wives from their own (man's) sin nature. The wife is a helper to her husband in his life and ministry by helping him thrive, caring for him, providing intimacy, and caring for the children, Gen. 2:18.
10. God Gives the Gift of Family: Eph. 5-6 and Col. 3 give instruction to the husband and wife. Marriage is first and then children are mentioned next. We are to be fruitful and multiply if we are able to have children. Marriages create future kingdom citizens and gospel opportunities.

### Further Discussion and Application

How has marriage been a sanctifying gift in your life? How has your wife been used by God to make you more godly? How has your husband been used to grow you to be more like Christ?

How can we demonstrate the character and love of God by loving our spouses? What do they see in us as we seek the glory of God and not just the blessing of a good and happy marriage? Why is the glory of God the aim of showing love and care for one another in obedience to the Scriptures?

Consider the statement, "Feelings follow love and obedience." It may seem difficult at first, but what do we learn about the grace of God as we obey Him? What do we find about our God and Christ as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Him? How do our feelings change with regards to the people of God and one another as we walk and learn and grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ? How does the love of God abound in us with increased knowledge of His word? How can we rightly see, that obeying the Lord with regards to our marriage will result in the same feelings?

What will you need to change to better demonstrate and reflect God's glory in your marriage?