

MARRIAGE MATTERS By Ryan & Nissa Andrews January 16, 2022

1: The Battle For Marriage

It's us vs them. And we want to win.

The clash of kingdoms -
Kingdom of God vs. kingdom of darkness

Who is the enemy? It's not her or him (your spouse), it's the serpent.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have *it* abundantly.

God's will is for you to have an abundant life and that includes an abundant marriage!

Abundant is the word *perissos* in Greek which means over and above, more than is necessary, excessive, superior, an advantage, super added, beyond measure, exceeding abundantly above, super abundant

The life that God gives you gives you an advantage in marriage. Our marriages have an advantage over those who don't have life in Jesus. This should be reflected statistically, but sadly divorce in the church is almost the same as the world.

Why?

Belief issue

Blame game

Lack understanding

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”

Does your husband/wife really love you? If he did, he would ...
They will never change. LIE (We are transformed into His Likeness)

2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” **4** The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! **5** For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.”

Maybe you made a mistake? God didn’t really bring you two together, maybe you didn’t hear his voice right? (The grass is greener, if you eat the fruit you’ll be better)

11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” **12** The man said, “The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate.” **13** Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Blame Game - It’s God’s fault, it’s the woman’s fault, it’s the serpent's fault.

The enemy wants to destroy your life and your marriage.

The Good News is that The enemy is defeated and he knows it!

Genesis 3:14

Then the Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
Cursed are you more than all the livestock,
And more than any animal of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And dust you shall eat
All the days of your life;
15 And I will make enemies
Of you and the woman,
And of your offspring and her Descendant;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

... Crushed his head through the seed of the woman.

Feet represent taking dominion.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Will not hurt your marriage)

The only real estate the enemy should own in your life is under your feet. That is your inheritance.

To understand the purpose and power of a marriage union you first need to know why God created marriage?

Malachi 2:15 “But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.”

God made marriage, not man. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God! So guard the spirit of marriage within you.

What is the purpose of the enemy destroying marriage?

He wants to rob God and the world of Godly seed. If he can get a foothold in your marriage and tear you two apart, he has a better chance of plucking you and your children from our purpose of fulfilling bringing forth godly seed.

2: Which kingdom do you want to be a part of?

Kingdom of God: Power - Love - Sound Mind (Self-Control)

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Power - Dunamis - Miraculous power, might and strength through God's ability.

Love - Agape - The God kind of love

Fear - Delia- (Cowardice) - Lack of courage or firmness of purpose.

Sound Mind - Sophronismos Self-Control- aptly act out God's will by doing what He calls, "sound reasoning."

Kingdom of darkness: Victim: fear, manipulation, control, anger, strife, and chaos.

It's all been broken already by Jesus. He has broken the cycle and made you a new creation. We need to renew our minds and walk in our authority as a new creation.

3: Powerful vs Victim Mentality

Things that reveal a victim mindset are powerless language.

I can't do that

It's too hard

I have to... clean the house, I have to homeschool the kids, I have to I'll try (can you imagine standing on the altar on your wedding day and instead of saying I do you said I'll try)

This leads to the blame game. The reason the marriage, the kids, the anxiety, happiness, dysfunction is the way it is is because someone else is to blame.

It's my parents fault because they divorced and didn't show me what a great marriage could look like.

It's my husband's fault because he isn't loving me the way he should be.
He's not showing up for me and meeting my needs.

It's my wife's fault because she is.

When you believe that you need to get your spouse to meet your needs, then you will step into one of these 3 roles.

Victim - Bad Guy - Rescuer

If you're the **victim** you are looking for a rescuer to solve all your problems.

If you're the **bad guy**, you use control and intimidation to protect yourself or you get someone to meet your needs.

If you're the **rescuer**, you take responsibility for someone else's life which makes you feel powerful.

It's possible to switch in and out of these roles.

This is a dysfunctional dynamic of exercising mutual control over each other.

The truth is you are powerful and your job is to control yourself.

Ryan's Story of Self-Control

You have been given a spirit of power, love, and self control.

A powerful person has a powerful language.

I will

I do

I am

They say both yes and no and mean it

Their choice to love stands no matter what the other person does or doesn't do.

The 2 most powerful forces that drive us: Fear and love.

You are either creating connection or distance in your marriage. One creates life, the other death. There is no in-between. Take responsibility to pursue connection and see the fruit of life and life abundant in your marriage.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear because fear has to do with torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Fear in this verse is the word Phobos. This is where we get the word phobia from.

Phobos means panic flight, the causing of fear, terror, alarm. To be put to flight, intimidation.

To flee, withdraw. Withdrawing from the Lord and His will.

Phobos fundamentally means withdraw (separate from), to flee (remove oneself) and hence to avoid because of dread/fright.

Fleeing from your spouse, relationship, kids. Fear causes us to run from connection.

We tend to default to old man habits. The old man operates in fear. Fear creates distance. It drives us away. This is why we need to renew our minds. A renewed mind can respond with love in the face of fear and pain instead of reacting to it.

The fruit of operating out of fear is distance and disconnection.

The fruit of love is connection and intimacy.

Love is a fruit of the Spirit. Fear is not. If you want to partner with the Holy Spirit, you can not tolerate fear in your life or marriage.

If you want to cast fear out of your marriage then you need to leave no room for doubt in your spouse's mind and heart that you truly love them.

4: Fearless Love

What is Fearless Love?

It is love that is free of fear, manipulation, control, anger, strife, and chaos.

Loving fearlessly means changing our responses to be in alignment with God's plan.

In other words, it is what happens when we operate out of God's kingdom instead of the other one...

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. **5** It does not act disgracefully, it does

not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, **6** it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails;

Loving fearlessly gives people the space to respond appropriately to us.

The battle for your marriage begins and ends with renewing your mind to God's truth and responding with Fearless Love instead of reacting from your flesh.

Study this scripture, meditate on God's goodness. Take time to discuss behaviors that are not leading you towards connection.

If you want prayer for anything relating to marriage, come on up...