

The Home as God Would Have it (3)
The Power of the Marriage Relationship
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Introduction: The power of God can overcome anything the world throws at it.

A. Satan has been successful in destroying things that are good.

(Lk 22:31-32; Mk 4:15; 1 Pt 5:8-9)

1. A man would be a fool to face Satan alone, yet many do.

2. How many ways can Satan defeat us? Peter was determined to beat Satan alone.

B. When we choose to walk by faith, we receive the council and protection of God.

1. Jesus defeated Satan and now He wants to help us! **(Jn 14:30; Heb 2:14-16, 18)**

2. We need to understand that God's ways will be laughed at by the world.

3. We can with confidence defeat this world. **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**

I. The marriage relationship is given by God to strengthen us.

A. Man is a social creature and by design he needs others. **(Ecc 4:8-12)**

1. God allowed Adam to see and admit this need. What a great gift God gave Adam! **(Gen 2:20-24)**

2. God's design will work beyond what we think is possible.

B. God's design can easily be perverted and become a curse.

1. The home can be a place that tears down others and promotes ungodliness. **(Prov 3:33, 11:29; 21:9, 25:24)**

2. It does not have to be that way! **(Prov 12:7, 14:1, 11)**

C. The home is a place to serve others. **(Prov 31:10-12)**

1. This is why worldliness cannot work in the home! Marriage is for 3.

2. When we raise children to be friends of the world then they will not be good mates. **(1 Jn 4:5-6)**

3. What a great place the home is when filled with faith and service. It becomes a place for healing, learning and praise.

II. I must come to know myself to be a servant

A. God can help me to see my heart and to see my needs. **(Heb 4:12)**

1. When I know myself then I can see my tendencies and my weaknesses.

2. If I cannot be honest about myself then I will have great difficulties with relationships.

3. Peter did not see his weaknesses and tried to talk his way into "strength." He needed to heed Jesus' warning and His council. **(Mt 26:34-35, 40-41)**

4. If Peter could only see the need that Jesus saw then he could have stood.

B. Where are your weaknesses towards sin? **(Gal 5:19-21)**

1. Those that are battling depression or a poor upbringing must come to understand their tendencies towards losing control of their thoughts and reality.

2. When you can see your tendencies then you can prepare to respond to emotional times. You also can communicate to others about your needs.

3. When you refuse to see the real issues in your life then you will lash out at others and have others seek to minimize their time around you.

III. I must come to know my mate in order to serve

A. What are the needs of a man? (**Eph 5:33**)

1. Consider this list from a class: **a. Trust b. Acceptance c. Appreciation
d. Admiration e. Approval f. Encouragement**

2. I heard a tape on this subject as a single man and learned a lot about myself.

3. There are other male related and personality related characteristics that you must learn about yourself! (Ex. I used to beat myself up over personality.)

B. What are the needs of a woman? (**Eph 5:25, 1 Pt 3:7**)

1. Consider this list from a class: **a. Caring b. Understanding c. Respect
d. Devotion e. Validation f. Reassurance**

2. There are things that a woman will do that a man would never on his own figure out. If a man will listen, then he will be blessed.

3. Consider how men and women deal with stress. When I as a man understand this, then I can with joy give my wife what she needs.

IV. I must constantly renew my commitment to be a servant

A. It is in the heart of a servant that the power of God is found. (**Phil 2:1-4**)

1. We seek to be near a servant that has the love of God.

2. To be a servant I must get out of myself. That is a challenge that can only be met by crucifixion. (**Lk 9:26-27**)

B. Do you look out to your mate's needs first? (**1 Cor 7:3-5**)

1. I am so glad to be needed and to be able to serve.

2. There is no greater joy than to look back on your life and see unselfish service. (**Phil 2:17-18**)

3. I have found great personal strength in remembering the service of my own parents.

C. What is keeping you from being a servant?

1. Are you a Christian?

2. Are you serving God and involved with His people? (**Heb 10:23-25**)

3. Are you too busy with worldly things?

4. Are you unable to get out of your own emotional turmoil?

V. God will powerfully bless us if we would let Him

A. As time passes we will clearly see this. (**Prov 31:10, 25**)

1. Why not take time to talk with those Christians who have had successful marriages. (Ex. Horace Huggins)

2. What a blessing to see what we really need and to be able to turn away from those things we do not need.

B. Our children and grandchildren will be blessed by God. (**Prov 23:24-25**)

1. I want to give my children to God. I can! (**Prov 22:6**)

2. How sad to see parents that fail to take advantage of a local church.

Conclusion: Are you by faith finding the power of God in your life?

(**Rom 1:16-17**)