

IOG SCROLL

SPECIAL SECTION



the Israel of God® 4957 Redan Rd Stone Mountain, Ga. 30088

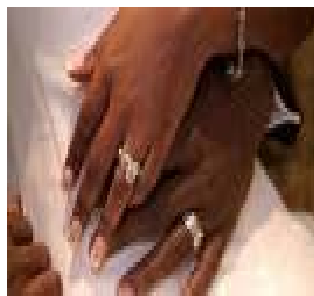
July 2010

A RIGHTEOUS MARRIAGE

Part IV

According to the Word of God, marriage is "...honorable in all and the bed undefiled..." However, it takes a lot of things to make a marriage truly work in righteousness: Patience, longsuffering, and diligence are just a few characteristics that need to be exhibited daily. However, one key part of marriage that many seem to lack understanding in are Intimacy and Hope.

In the final part of the series, **Part IV** of "A Righteous Marriage", we will briefly discuss the importance of intimacy and hope. When many think of intimacy, they relate it to just the physical part of relations between parties when that is not the entire case. Indeed, relations are an integral part, but spiritual intimacy in combination with physical relations lead to a far more fulfilling marital life.



According to the law and testimony (and stated earlier in this series), marriage is honorable in all. What are we actually hoping for? Many people don't realize

that intimacy and hope go hand in hand. By keeping the laws of God by honoring Him **and** our spouse, we have hope of being raised at the first resurrection and a right to the promise of eternal life with God!

"...It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD"- lamentsations 3:26

"...Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to

*be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
"...In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." – Titus 1:2*

WHAT IS INTIMACY?

The concept of marital intimacy is derived from the Biblical principle of oneness, or on one accord. Intimacy is living in full view of the other so that the two function as one... physically and spiritually! If a couple desires to function as one rather than two, then they need a way to relate to one another that does not cause conflict but encourages harmony. One might say, "How is this achieved?" The answer is simple...communication.

SPIRITUAL INTIMACY: If a couple would just talk more to each other, they would grow in their intimacy. Clearly, a major challenge to intimacy in our modern world is a lack of time for one another. As long as man and woman allow their times together to be leftovers from our "other" business, they may as well assume that there will not be much growth. Conversation between spouses must be honest, selfless and true.

AN HONEST CONVERSATION ELIMINATES

PRETENSE: We must not pretend all is well when it actually is not. In fact, we are dishonest and breaking God's law if we allow our spouse to think other than what actually is. Our job is to help the other know who we really are. When we take that honest step forward, the evils of secrecy fall away, and we can grow in our intimacy in one another. Discussing situations with some couples, I have

discovered that many conversations are either too short or shallow. Most conversations are short and shallow due to dishonesty. It is fine to talk about buildings, races and school, but in the end, we need to share details about our “real” person. This is where and when intimate growth begins to take place.

CONVERSATION MUST BE SELF-LESS: Just as conversation can be superficial, it also can be selfish. If you always talk about yourself rather than inquiring into the life and concerns of your spouse, you don’t need to wonder why your friendship with your spouse doesn’t grow. No one likes those who like to talk only about themselves. This is true in a marriage as well. The ‘me’ person focuses on themselves because they are content with knowing only about themselves. If there is a need, it is only as listening post. We are not speaking of how much a person speaks, but whether they actually employ their words to find out more about the other person. (This is simple love – see Parts I and II for more detail on this). True intimacy demands an ongoing investigation into the life of our spouse. We want to explore their life because we are interested in them.

OUR CONVERSATION MUST BE REAL! Honesty and truth are admittedly rather closely related. Usually when a person thinks of honesty, he is only thinking whether or not his words are honest. Truth, though, speaks at a deeper level. It gets deeper than just the words down to what one feels or thinks. There are many things that a spouse might have issues with or just plain dislike, but do not mention them to one another stating “...it keeps the peace”. Out of politeness, you might not mention your issue and in turn, just put up with it. We might think that our quietness is more loving, but in actuality, because of the closeness of the relationship, we need an approach that will help us to gain our spouse. Spiritually,

“...A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” – Proverbs 18:24

“...Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.” – Matthew 18:15

Quiet politeness is not true enough. Sometimes we don’t want to offend the other. It is good to think about the other; timing is important. But if something he or she does to pleasure you doesn’t really please you, speak up. If this was a momentary thing, then we could forget it, but marriage is for life. Allow the relationship to grow **in truth**.

“...walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbear-

ing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4: 1-3

Conversing with our spouse is the most basic step that enables us to know how he or she thinks about or perceives different issues. We are beginning to know how our spouse is motivated. We gain insight into their struggles and temptations. As we gain more knowledge about them, then we can better serve and care for them, and gain support from them. Personal sharing leads us to mutual understanding of each other and the Lord!

DEEPENING THE COMMITMENT

A righteous marriage in the Lord takes a lot of dedication, diligence, and just plain hard work! It’s not realistic to think that a couple can mature in their intimacy through one or two special experiences...it is a life-long process. A couple must engage in many special conversations and shared experiences for mutual trust to grow (Fears are overcome and replaced with an invigorating confidence in each other through this process). As a result of this deepening mutual understanding, a firmer commitment evolves. The commitment is a bit different than most visible commitments. It is more of a subtle and unconscious realization! This commitment shows itself in being “one-minded”, willingness to sacrifice, and a genuine cherishing of each other.



ONE-MINDED: A couple must increasingly come to the point where they have only one love. The commitment to the Lord first, and then to each other. Most couples don’t even realize that they have to even place each other over their children! Jesus says that any desire for another is adultery. One-heartedness **removes those uncommitted areas** so that the husband can fully cherish his wife and vice versa.

WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE: Once committed, the spouse is further willing to sacrifice him or herself to care for the other. This is one of the two main objectives in a spouse’s life (the other, of course, being service to the Lord). Their faithfulness to bettering their spouse is **more important than their own self**. The husband’s love will be broader and penetrate deeper and the wife’s submission will be more genuine and propelled by a spirit of humility.

INCREASED FONDNESS: With a real commitment, we gain a deeper sense of being cherished. The more we resolve to love our spouse, the more excitement and joy comes from the relationship. We are excited to see our spouse grow and be helped in some area. Their life and happiness becomes most important to you in the Lord!

Overall, a deeper commitment is real love. Love is the expression of unconditional, genuine concern for the other. Love is the underlying devotion toward each other that generates a host of kind words, generous actions, and special favors.

"...Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" – 1 John 3:16-17

"...Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" – 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

"...This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." – John 15; 12-13

Marital intimacy is more than just physical, it is being one in mind. Each spouse believes in the other's commitment. Each realizes that God has especially gifted their mate to work with them. It is only this confidence that compels them to change habits in order to take those steps toward deeper intimacy. Every step of commitment brings a deeper appreciation and further changes in how they share in the life of the spouse.



tions.

An intimate marriage is characterized by the understanding that your spouse is vitally important in the plan of salvation in God. It is more than just meeting each other's basic needs. The more one believes that their spouse is important, the more an understanding is reached as to how their spouse can help in their lives. Confidence in God's perfect design for man shapes our attitudes and actions.

With the understanding of the role of intimacy, we understand the love, dedication, determination, sacrifice, and ultimate intimacy Jesus has with his church. By reading and understanding His Word, we are allowing ourselves to be more intimate with our husband. He explains His thoughts to us (if we are truly listening) and tells us of the reward for listening and obeying. Through our willingness to be of one mind, he then can give us what we need and want if we ask it of Him. In addition, with our continuous study of his "mind" we then have a deeper love and commitment as well which will lead to us obtaining the promise of eternal salvation enjoying our husband for eternity.

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is... Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of



the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church,

and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" – Ephesians 5: 17, 21-33

I would like to thank all who have read this four-part series and pray that it has been a blessing to you! Don't forget to continue to read God's Word, trust in Him, and walk in the righteousness displayed by our husband and example...Jesus Christ!

Peace in Jesus name,
Bro. Deuel, Pastor

the Israel of God®
4957 Redan Road
Stone Mountain, 30088



Phone: (404) 298-9393

Fax: (678) 620-2224

Email: iogatlantaoffice@yahoo.com

Website: www.theisraelofgodatl.com

Your comments, suggestions, pictures, or editorials for the newsletter can be sent to iognewsletter@gmail.com

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

372 Fougerson Street
Buffalo, NY 14211
Phone: (716) 897-2270
Fax: (716) 897-1013
<http://www.theisraelofgodbuffalo.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Harold Walker

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - Headquarters

2515 E. 75th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60649
Phone: (773) 374-6413 or 1 800 96-BIBLE
Fax: (773) 374-9798
<http://www.theisraelofgod.com>
email: theisrael@earthlink.net
Contact Person: Bro. Henry Buie

DALLAS, TEXAS

2903 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75215
Phone: (214) 421-0600
Fax: (214) 421-0615
<http://www.theisraelofgoddallas.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Mike Murray

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

625 Stassen Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004
Phone: (269) 381-1926
<http://www.theisraelofgodkalamazoo.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Jacmauzs Jaraudakarr

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

4485 Elvis Presley Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38111
Phone: (901) 332-6221
Fax: (901) 332-2925
<http://www.theisraelofgodmemphis.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Harold Robinson

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

1537 Glenwood Ave. North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405
Phone: (612) 522-0619
Fax: (612) 374-1241
<http://www.theisraelofgodminneapolis.com>
Contact Person: Bro. Tony Johnson