

Introduction:

Great marriages are characterized by couples who “give their mate what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost.”

- Translation = Marriage is not a 50:50 proposition. Great marriages are built on loving our spouses in the same way Christ has loved us.

John 15:13

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

- The principle = You cannot _____ what you have not _____.

John 10:10

* Biblical marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33) requires sacrificial, other-centered love that is humanly impossible, but supernaturally enabled as we receive a steady flow of God's love in us.

1 John 3:16

Developing a life-giving relationship with God requires:

- A _____ birth John 3:1-7

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

John 3:16-17

Question – Are you certain you’re “_____”?

- A _____ dedication

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

Question – Are you “_____”?

- A _____ battle

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

Question – Are you being conformed or transformed?

What do you need to believe about God's character to experience His love and power?

- His _____

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11

- His _____

²⁸ "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Conclusion

The greatest gift you can give your mate is becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.

Helpful Resources

- 1.) *The Real God* (book & audio series by Chip Ingram) will help you grasp who God is and how He sees you so you can trust Him deeply.
- 2.) *I Choose Peace* (book & audio series by Chip Ingram) will help you experience God's supernatural peace in relational conflict, anxious moments, difficult circumstances, and financial challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when someone gave you what you needed most when you deserved it the least. What was your response?
2. What hinders you from being radically dedicated to God? What changes will you make today?
3. What characteristics of God help you experience His love? What are some passages that you can commit to memory that reinforce those characteristics?
4. How will you practically demonstrate the love of Christ to your mate this week? If you are single, how can you demonstrate the love of Christ to those in your circle?