

NAKED MARRIAGE SERIES

Title: Naked Marriage Part 1

February 12, 2017

Myth: *Marriage is about us.*

Truth: *A Christian Marriage is for God to be glorified and the Gospel to be on display.*

What are some common myths about marriage?

John 8:32, "And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free".

Define Christian:

Bob Deffenbaugh says, "A Christian marriage is one in which Christ is manifested through the marriage relationship by at least one of the partners".

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE PRIMARY GOAL OF A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS

Colossians 1:15-16

Genesis 2:20-24

1 Corinthians 10:31 "As a matter of fact, do everything that way, heartily and freely to God's glory."

What Does Glorify Mean?

How Do We Glorify God?

Matthew 5:14-16

John 15:8

Philippians 1:9-11

1Peter 2:11-12

1 Peter 4:10-11

“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” Jeremiah 17:9 NLT

“For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.” Matthew 15:19 NLT

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What is the Gospel?

The term gospel is found ninety-nine times in the NASB and ninety-two times in the NET Bible. In the Greek New Testament, gospel is the translation of the Greek noun euangelion (occurring 76 times) “good news,” and the verb euangelizo (occurring 54 times), meaning “to bring or announce good news.” Both words are derived from the noun angelos, “messenger.” In classical Greek, an euangelos was one who brought a message of victory or other political or personal news that caused joy. In addition, euangelizomai (the middle voice form of the verb) meant “to speak as a messenger of gladness, to proclaim good news.” Further, the noun euangelion became a technical term for the message of victory, though it was also used for a political or private message that brought joy.[1]

The Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia summarizes the gospel message this way: The central truth of the gospel is that God has provided a way of salvation for men through the gift of His son to the world. He suffered as a sacrifice for sin, overcame death, and now offers a share in His triumph to all who will accept it. The gospel is good news because it is a gift of God, not something that must be earned by penance or by self-improvement (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8–11; II Cor 5:14–19; Tit 2:11–14).[2]

Passages on Marriage: 1 Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:21-31; Colossians 3:18-20; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

In their book, *Love That Lasts*, Gary and Betsy Ricucci list out nine ways that the gospel directly affects marriage (and so much more).

1. Because of the gospel, Christians have become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, in our marriage, our past does not define us, confine us, or determine our future.
2. Because of the gospel, we are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7). Therefore we can live free of all guilt and condemnation for every sin, and we can trust that God, in his mercy, will be gracious to us.

3. Because of the gospel we can forgive, just as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). Nothing done against us compares to our sin against God. Therefore all offenses, hostility, and bitterness between Christians can be completely forgiven and removed.
4. Because of the gospel, we are accepted by God (Romans 15:7). Therefore we are not dependent on a spouse for who we are or what we need.
5. Because of the gospel, sin's ruling power over us is broken (Romans 6:6, 14). Therefore we can truly obey all that God calls us to do in our marriage, regardless of any circumstance or situation.
6. Because of the gospel, we have access to God through Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16). Therefore we can at any time take any need in our marriage to the One who can do all things.
7. Because of the gospel, we have hope (Romans 5:1-4). Therefore we can endure any marital difficulty, hardship, or suffering, with the assurance that God is working all to our greatest good (Romans 8:28).
8. Because of the gospel, Christ dwells in us by his Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:13-14). Therefore we are confident that God is always with us and is always at work in our marriage, even when progress is imperceptible (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).
9. Because of the gospel, we have power to fight and overcome remaining sin , which continues to dwell and war within us (Romans 7:19-21, 24-25; Galatians 5:16-17). This indwelling enemy represents the essence of what is called the doctrine of sin.

Love That Lasts: When Marriage Meets Grace (Crossway, 2006), 22–23, numbering added.

Every Christian must be fully Christian by bringing God into his whole life, not merely into some spiritual realm. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

When a marriage is missing grace the entire disposition of the relationship changes.

[1] Colin Brown, general editor, *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1976), Volume 2, 107.

[2] Charles F. Pfeiffer, *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*, (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1975), electronic media.