

Marriage, God's Institution

Spiritual Intimacy in Marriage

Goals:

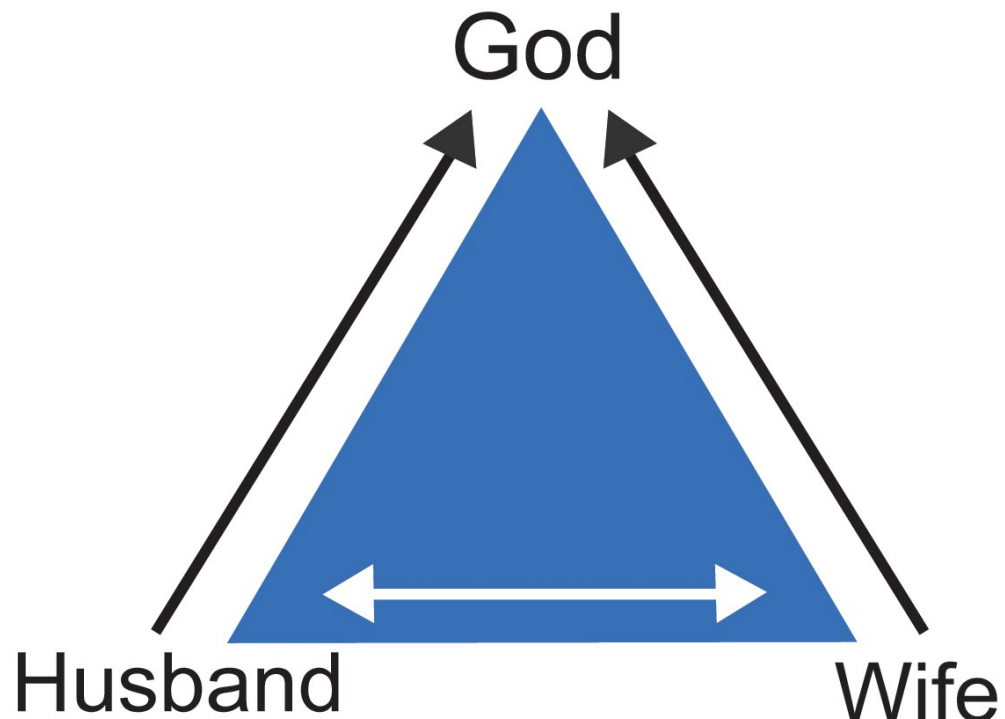
- Understand Spiritual Intimacy
- The Role of Christ in Marriage
- Things to consider before Marriage

Spiritual Intimacy (Gen. 2:25; diagram)

Adam and Eve felt no shame being naked. This was a sign of their innocence and purity. When sin entered they had to cover themselves because of it. For a husband and wife as long as they remain pure in their relationship their spiritual intimacy will increase. Their walk with God will become closer and therefore they will come closer to one another. This should be the aim of wives in their relationship to their husband, to come closer to God and to be the chaste wife God desires them to be. As they do they will bring an increased level of spiritual intimacy to their relationship.

Gen 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. NIV

When God is the center of a marriage, a husband and wife will grow in intimacy with God and with each other. The closer to God the closer to each other.



It takes Three People to Make a Great Marriage

When Christ is in the center of a marriage covenant between a husband and wife there is nothing that can overpower, overthrow, or destroy them. Jesus must be at the center of everything they do together. One should not leave the other one out of plans and decisions, neither should one leave the other out of spiritual growth. When the two walk in unity and love together, Jesus is there with them and He will cause them to overcome every obstacle.

Eccl 4:12

12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. NKJV

Two together he compares to a threefold cord; for where two are closely joined in holy love and fellowship, Christ will by his Spirit come to them, and make the third, as he joined himself to the two disciples going to Emmaus, and then there is a threefold cord that can never be broken. They that dwell in love, dwell in God, and God in them. (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.)

Special Issues concerning marriage

- 1) You must be whole before you can be someone's "other half."
- 2) Decide where you want to go before you take someone with you
- 3) Become self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency before you start depending on someone else

Your wholeness in Christ is the best gift you can give anyone in marriage. Prepare yourself for marriage by giving yourself wholly to the Lord.

- 4) How to handle and what to consider about an unbelieving spouse

The Word is very clear about the power of living one's life for the Lord. And it clearly shows believers the result it will have on an unbelieving spouse. We don't have to push our spouses to receive the Lord and walk with Him, we don't even have to say one word. Just our daily living will win them. And when we speak we should be kind, speaking the truth when prompted by the Lord, but with love and gentleness.

1 Peter 3:1-2

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, **without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.** NKJV

Col 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. NIV