

ELIMINATING SELFISHNESS IN MARRIAGE

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Marriage is two people harmonizing into one. It speaks of oneness.

Gen 2:24

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

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Oneness speaks of unity of vision and purpose.

Gen 11:1-7

11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. 6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

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The marriage vow says, "Till death do us part ". That is to say that they are bound together as long as they live. That means:

1. What belongs to one belongs to the other.
2. There should be no segregation and self-centeredness.
3. The responsibility of running the house belongs to both.
4. Both family members (in-laws) should be treated with equal attention.
5. The up-bringing (training, discipline, clothing and education) of the children belong to both of them.
6. Only death separates them.

WHAT IS SELFISHNESS?

To be selfish is chiefly thinking of, and interested in one's needs and welfare, without care for others. Selfishness is the act of being selfish. It is acting from selfish motives.

1. Nothing destroys like selfishness.
2. The greatest enemy of man is not the devil but self.
3. A lot of marriages are in crisis because of selfishness'.
4. The reason for fights over money, clothes and family members, is selfishness on the part of either the husband or the wife.
5. The reason for concealing income is for selfish motives.

Ask yourself these questions and honestly answer them:

1. Are you self-centered?
2. What is your reason for always starting a quarrel with your spouse?
3. Why do you refuse joint accounting system?
4. Why do you subscribe for a joint system?
5. Why do you want to keep the purse of the house? Is it so you can help yourself like Judas Iscariot always helped himself out with the ministry's money in his possession?
6. Why do you frown, at and resist accountability in the home?
7. Why do you conceal information from your spouse?

THE EVIL OF SELFISHNESS

1. Selfishness breeds lies.
2. Selfishness is the root of many arguments and fights in the home.
3. Selfishness kills love.
 - It makes love to be insincere.

Rom 12:9

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

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- It makes love to be sour.
4. Selfishness destroys trust and increases suspicion.
 5. Selfishness increases impatience.
 6. Selfishness hinders accountability, and as a result hinders effective financial planning in the home.
 7. Selfishness divides the families involved in the marriage.

Matt 12:25

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

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8. Selfishness pushes a man to steal.
9. Selfishness makes a man to conceal information and keep the partner in the dark about what the true picture is.
10. Selfishness is a deadly poison that must be eliminated today for marriage to be sweet and enduring,

HOW TO DEAL WITH SELFISHNESS

1. Change your mentality about marriage.

- Understand what oneness in marriage is.
- Have a new vision of your home and your spouse.
- Value trust, and trust your spouse.
- Understand the implication of your marriage vow, and walk in the understanding that God will give you.

2. See Selfishness as an evil that must be eliminated for success to be achieved.

- If you don't eliminate selfishness, it will eliminate, love, happiness and trust in your marriage.
- If you don't deal with selfishness, it will deal with you.
- Always put yourself in your partner's position. What is good for you is good for your partner, and what is not good for you, is not good for your partner.
- "Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Lk 6:31)

3. Deal with the fear of losing in your marriage if you are not self-centered.

- Fear is a product of your imagination.
- Fear is imaginary evil experience.

1 John 4:18

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

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4. Pray often about the fears you have about your partner, and don't allow that picture to remain in your head.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

KJV

5. See your spouse's family as your own, and treat them as you will treat your own.

6. Be honest at all times.

- Be sincere.
- Do not disguise. Wear no mask.

7. Consider collective interests always.

8. Replace selfish life with sacrificial life.

John 15:12-13

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

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9. Serve one another in love.

Gal 5:13-14

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

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1 John 3:16

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

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10. Maintain positive thought your spouse.

- Never think of him/her as trying to cheat you.
- Never doubt his or her love and sincerity until proven otherwise.
- Trust your partner.

11. Cooperate with your partner, pursuing collective interest and not selfish interest.

CONCLUSION

The truths conveyed in this material are enough to straighten your life and marriage. Go to work on it immediately. Your marriage is your life. Your attitude (mental disposition) gave birth to your habits and character. Eliminate Selfishness in your life and your marriage will be sweeter, stronger and more fruitful.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1 Obedience is the proof of love. Submission is part of obedience.**
- 2 When love is strong in the heart, it is easy to overlook an offence**
- 3 When bitterness becomes strong, it is a sign that love is weak.**
- 4 You can't love without being emotional. But not all emotion is born out of true love. It may be lust. Check it out.**
- 5 What is in your heart or that person's heart is it love or lust?**
- 6 A weak foundation will produce a weak marriage. What foundation are you building on.**
- 7 Your partner is not supposed to take God's place in your life. God must always be number one in your life. When the order is changed, things go wrong.**
- 8 It takes sincerity for marriage or any other kind of relationship to work successfully,**
- 9 It your husband is not standing by you and you are not standing by him, then you have not business with each other.**
- 10 Who to marry is not an issue, but how mature you are for marriage is what is important.**