Fighting For Your Marriage!

By Richard Crisco

Heb. 13:4  Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Before And After Marriage......

B - You take my breath away
A - I feel like I'm suffocating

B - She says she loves the way I take control of the situation
A - She called me a controlling, manipulative egomaniac

B - Saturday Night Fever
A - Monday Night Football

B - He makes me feel like a million dollars
A - If I had a dime for every stupid thing he's done...

B - The Sound of Music
A - The Sound of Silence

B - He's completely lost without me
A - Why won't he ever ask for directions?

B - Time stood still
A - This relationship is going nowhere

B - You look so seductive in black
A - Your clothes are so depressing

B - I can hardly believe we found each other
A - I can't believe I ended up with someone like you

"Marriage and Divorce" magazine discovered that one out of every three marriages ends in divorce, but when the couple is married in a church ceremony, and they attend church regularly, and they pray and read the Bible together, then the chances for divorce drop to one out of 1,105." - Rick Warren

The first shock of marriage is the discovery that it is actually hard. The second shock of marriage is to realize that you both are a royal mess.

Noah Webster 1828 American English Dictionary

Marriage; The act of uniting a man and woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life. Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them marriage was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing the promiscuous intercourse of sexes, for promoting domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children. Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled. Heb. 13 1. A feast made on the occasion of a marriage.
The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, who made a marriage for his son. Mt. 22.
2. In a scriptural sense, the union between Christ and his church by the covenant of grace. Rev. 19.
5 Characteristics of a Healthy Marriage:

1. Communication – This is a skill you must learn through practice, but the bottom line is you’ve got to talk to each other.

2. Courtship –

   If there was more courting in marriage, there’d be fewer marriages in court.

You need to date your mate, making your relationship a priority -- specifically developing things you like to do together.

The human heart has an unlimited, unending need for love, because it is created for an INFINITE God who is unending love.

_Ecc 3:11 He has also set eternity in the hearts of men;_

Thus, it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to fill the need of love in our Spouse’s Heart!

The Ache and emptiness of our heart is designed to drive us to God.

Woman – heart craves relationship and affection – this is why women are afraid of abandonment. – Husband cannot fully meet that need alone.

She needs Girlfriends!

Ultimately this need was designed to drive her to God.

Men – hearts crave affirmation and validation – this is why men fear failure. Wives cannot fully meet that need alone.

He needs Guy friends!

Ultimately His need for affirmation was designed to drive him to God.

So let me let you off of the hook! You are not enough to meet all of your spouse’s needs. Only God can meet that need in their life!

_Psa 62:1 My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken._

3. Consideration – Being considerate simply means paying attention to what your spouse says, showing common courtesy, treat each other with respect, and seek to meet the others needs.

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If you do not think you need this message:

Godlier Than David
Stronger Than Samson
Wiser Than Solomon

_2Sa 11:1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the_
Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

1Sa 18:14 In everything he did he had great success, because the LORD was with him. 15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns. 17 Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD." For Saul said to himself, "I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!" 18 But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?"

1Sa 19:11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed." 12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped. 13 Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head. 14 When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill." 15 Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, "Bring him up to
me in his bed so that I may kill him." 16 But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair. 17 Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?" Michal told him, "He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?'"

1Sa 25:44  But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim.
2Sa 3:12  Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to say to David, "Whose land is it? Make an agreement with me, and I will help you bring all Israel over to you." 13 "Good," said David. "I will make an agreement with you. But I demand one thing of you: Do not come into my presence unless you bring Michal daughter of Saul when you come to see me." 14 Then David sent messengers to Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, demanding, "Give me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for the price of a hundred Philistine foreskins." 15 So Ish-Bosheth gave orders and had her taken away from her husband Paltiel son of Laish. 16 Her husband, however, went with her, weeping behind her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go back home!" So he went back. 16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. 17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. 18 After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. 19 Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes. 20 When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!" 21 David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel-- I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor." 23 And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

1Co 7:1  Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

Pro 30:21  "Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: 22 a servant who becomes king, a fool who is full of food, 23 an unloved woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress.
I Co 7:4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

4. Commitment (Covenant) – There were times in the first few years of our marriage when Jane or I might have bailed out, but we agreed that divorce was not an option. This forced us to change, to become flexible, to learn compromise, and to grow out of our selfishness.

Always remember that your marriage has an enemy! And that enemy is NOT your spouse, but it is satan!

Satan’s main weapon is a “lie.” Jesus described him as the “Father of lies.” (Jn. 8:44) Satan’s plan is to get you to come into agreement with his lie!

Once we come into agreement with his lie, we come under its stronghold and influence. We begin to interpret everything through the filter of a lie. We become confused, disoriented and deceived.

Soon, we find ourselves fight with our spouse, instead of fighting for our spouse!!!

When there is turmoil in your home, STOP for a moment and evaluate how you are thinking!

How are you interpreting what the problem is right now?

Why are you feeling the way you do?

Are you Blaming your Spouse?

Are you Blaming yourself?

Have you subconsciously resigned to your present state?

Have you given up hope for an awesome marriage?

Have you stopped fighting for your spouse and surrendered to the enemy?

OR Do you recognize the problem comes from the Pit of Hell?

Do you call satan on the carpet and refuse to allow him to have a foothold in your marriage?

Ultimate Question:
Do you and your spouse fight (face to face) against each other?
Or Do you and your spouse fight (back to back) against your mutual enemy – satan!

Mt 18:19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
The heart of man is the most valued possession!

All of heaven and hell wars over the Heart of man. Marriage should be the sanctuary of the heart; the place where your heart is safe and protected.

Your spouse has entrusted you with their heart and one of the utmost responsibilities you have is to love, protect and defend their heart from all danger!

For your spouse to entrust you (out of everyone in the entire world) with their heart is the greatest HONOR that could be bestowed and carries grave RESPONSIBILITY!

Your spouse carries the most vital role in your life. No one has greater access to your heart. No one determines your success and fulfillment more than your spouse. They are the caretakers of your heart.

Marriage is God’s revelation of His covenant commitment to the Church.

*Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Marriage is Hard because it has great opposition.
  Satan Hates Marriage!
  The World Hates Marriage!
  Your Flesh Hates Marriage!
  But God Loves Marriage!

5. Christ – Jesus gives you the power and the desire to develop your marriage. He gives you love when you run out of love. The greatest thing you can do for your spouse is to become like Christ and then begin to treat your spouse like Christ would.