

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 4 - FIRST CONDITION IS LOVE

In part 3 of this resource I mentioned the fact that the covenant Jesus has made with us as His people, has conditions to it.

In Christ we have everything we need to be able to keep these conditions, as God has graced us for this, so it is imperative we are living our lives on earth from being 'in Him'.

It's from being 'in Him' that Acts 17:28 says, ***we are to live and move and exist.***

The first condition of the marriage covenant we are to keep is the condition of love.

We have all been commanded to love the Father with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is known as the Great Commandment.

Mark 12:28-30 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength.

This is not loving the Father with our human love, nor is it doing works for God, and saying by my works I love you. No this is loving the Father with the love the Father loves us with. This is an eternal love and an eternal loving.

This is to be 'agape' love which is the Father's love operating in and through us.

John 17:26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

For us to be able to keep this Great Commandment, His love must be imparted into us through resurrection power.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ

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which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

This love is not learnt, studied, understood, figured out or earnt through good works or behaviour. This love is received in our inner most being as the writer of Ephesians declares, rooting and grounding us into His love.

Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

This love is to be known and experienced in us and grown in such a tangible way, our lives can never be the same and we find ourselves being able to love God in a way we were never able to before.

This is what I call the VERTICAL Covenant between God and us as individuals. This is the most important element out of the cross, because it empowers our ability to keep every other Commandment and instruction in God.

Paul says without this love operating in and through us we are nothing but a gong or a clanging cymbal. Not only are we nothing, but all the works we do are also nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

This can be hard to hear and receive but it is God's truth and living Word.

Through our absolute surrender and the yielding of our entire hearts and lives to God, which is our true act of spiritual worship, He will take this broken spirit and replace it with a spirit of love and humility.

This is His promise to us so we are more than capable of loving Him as we are commanded to, being faithful and obedient to the first condition or commandment of our marriage covenant.

QUESTIONS

1. What stood out for you the most from this resource?
2. Why did that stand out the most for you?

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3. Why is this love received and not learnt, studied, understood, figured out or earned through good works or behaviour?
4. Why is the absolute surrender of your entire heart and life the key to receiving His love in us?
5. Would you say you are being made aware of the significance of our need for His love to operate in us?

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